

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
AIR FORCE COMMANDER MI-
CHAEL JOSEPH AKOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Air Force Commander Michael Joseph Akos, who bravely and selflessly answered the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Commander Akos' young life was characterized by his dream of one day flying above the clouds, a dream that would be fulfilled in the form of service to his country. Michael's gregarious and mischievous spirit made him a pleasure to be around, a quality that followed him into adulthood. Devoted and diligent, Commander Akos had the strength and discipline to do anything he set his mind to, and an intense devotion to those he loved.

Commander Akos loved his family, and lived his life with passion. He served as a model husband, son, brother, and friend, always happy to be around his loved ones, and poignantly aware of the gift of family.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Commander Michael J. Akos, whose courage and commitment will forever be remembered as a testament to our great Nation. I offer my deepest condolences to the family of Commander Akos—his beloved parents, Dennis Joseph Akos and Nona Ann Akos; his devoted wife Karlynn Akos; his beloved brothers, Dennis Matthew Akos and Patrick Thomas Akos; and his extended family and many friends.

The significant sacrifice, service, and bravery that characterized the life of Commander Michael Joseph Akos will forever be honored and remembered by the Cleveland community, and the entire Nation. And within the hearts of his family and friends—the bonds of love and memories created in life by Commander Akos will never be broken, the joy he brought to this world will never be forgotten, and his sacrifice will serve as a living symbol of the human spirit.

INCLUSION OF GUAM IN PUBLIC LAW 101-426

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in the RECORD a resolution passed by the Guam Legislature which petitions the United States Congress to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 to include Guam in the jurisdictions covered by the Act.

The aforementioned Act, Public Law 101-426, calls for the compensation to be paid to

the people of areas where they may have been exposed to hazardous materials as a result of the detonation of nuclear weapons. While those areas that were most obviously affected by nuclear testing have been compensated, recent evidence shows that the effects of these nuclear tests were more widespread than originally thought. Most specifically, the people of my island, Guam, were affected by these events, and it is of paramount importance that this problem be addressed. As the resolution states, Guam was affected by wind borne radiation and by the scrubbing of radiated vessels in Guam's harbors.

In the coming days, I will work towards the introduction of legislation that will extend Public Law 101-426 to include the people of Guam. Such legislation is a much needed action to compensate for allowing nuclear waste to contaminate areas in the Western Pacific. I look to my colleagues for their assistance and understanding in rectifying the impact of nuclear testing in the region.

RESOLUTION NO. 30 (LS)

Whereas, the United States conducted testing of atomic nuclear weapons on Enewetak and Bikini Atolls in the Marshall Islands, from 1946 to 1958. A total of sixty-seven (67) atomic and thermonuclear bombs were detonated which resulted in fallout across a wide area of the Pacific. Continental United States residents exposed to radiation resulting from the nuclear weapons testing subsequently developed serious diseases, including various types of cancer. On October 1990, in order to establish a procedure to make partial restitution to radiation exposure victims for their suffering, President George H. Bush signed into law the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). RECA established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program (RECP) within the Civil Division of the Department of justice to administer its responsibilities under the Act. In April 1992, RECP began processing claims. RECA was amended several times, most recently on July 10, 2000, when President William Jefferson Clinton signed into law the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000. The 2000 amendments further broaden the scope of eligibility for benefits coverage to include new victim categories and modify the criteria for determining eligibility for compensation; and

Whereas, RECA establishes a procedure to make partial restitution to individuals who contracted serious diseases, such as certain types of cancers, presumably resulting from their exposure to radiation from above-ground nuclear tests or as a result of their employment in uranium mines. The law established five (5) claimant categories—uranium miners, uranium millers, ore transporters, "downwinders" (those who were located downwind from aboveground nuclear weapons tests conducted at the Nevada test sites) and onsite participants (those who actually participated onsite); and

Whereas, as enacted, the law broadens the population covered by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which authorizes monetary compensation to individuals who were present, or nearby when nuclear weapons tests were conducted at the Nevada Test Site or who worked in uranium mines, and later developed certain diseases; adds more

qualifying occupations relating to uranium production; increases the number of states covered and extends the time period considered for radiation exposure; adds more diseases which may qualify individuals for compensation; decreases the level of radiation exposure that is necessary to qualify; makes certain that the medical criteria is less stringent for potential claimants; and

Whereas, nuclear tests that the United States Government conducted in the Marshall Islands from 1946 until 1968 have led to increased levels of radiation in some of the islands of Micronesia; and

Whereas, such increased levels of radiation may have led to serious health and other environmental problems for life in such areas; and

Whereas, Guam is approximately one thousand two-hundred (1200) miles directly west of the test sites; and

Whereas, the Atomic Energy Commission detonated sixty-seven (67) nuclear devices with a total yield of one hundred eight thousand four hundred ninety-two point two (108,492.2) kilotons in or around the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas, there were ten (10) detonations that had the yield necessary (one (1) megaton) to project material from the center of the explosion to the height of between twelve (12) to fifty-five (55) miles, and into the jet-stream; and

Whereas, the jet-stream travels generally westward from the Marshall Islands carrying the radioactive material as fine as dust particles; these particles collected ice crystals at high altitudes and descended as cloud condensation. This process is known as the scavenging effect; and

Whereas, the material drops to land surfaces and enters the food and water supply consumed by the local population; and

Whereas, reports from the United States Navy indicated that they had full knowledge and did not warn or help the local population; and

Whereas, ships present during the nuclear testing were decontaminated in Guam harbors with acidic detergents and the runoff from these operations went directly in the local fishing and reef environments; and

Whereas, the United States Navy performed radio ecological studies on the surface water in and around the island of Guam and found a major peak of radioactive contamination in 1959; and

Whereas, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, for the United States Department of Energy, performed radio ecological testing on Guam beginning in 1968 and ending in 1974, to study potential radiation effects on the local population; and

Whereas, numerous other radio ecological studies were performed by government agencies, the United States military, and various research institutions from 1946 until 1974 to study Guam's environment and actual and potential radiation effects on the local population; and

Whereas, according to requirements set forth by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, the island of Guam should qualify as a jurisdiction and its population should be recognized as victims of radiation exposure from nuclear weapons testing and associated clean-up activities (see Appendix I listing the declassified documents pertaining to and indicating Guam's exposure to radioactive

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

isotopes as a result of the Atomic Energy Commission nuclear weapon tests in the Marshall Islands); now therefore, be it

Resolved, That I Mina'Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, petition the United States Congress to amend the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990", Public Law 101-426, as amended by Public Law 101-510, §3139 (42 U.S.C. 2210) and Public Law 106-245; to include Guam in the jurisdictions (downwinders/onsite participants) covered by the Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the affected population previously and currently on Guam (those residing who have been exposed to radiation resulting from the Atomic Energy Commission tests in the Marshall Islands) be recognized as being "downwinders" of such tests; and be it further

Resolved, That those persons involved in the actual testing and clean-up activities of such atomic weapons tests be recognized as "on-site participants" and/or "downwinders" depending on their exposure as defined by RECA; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate; to the Honorable Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate; to the Honorable Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, United States Senate; to the Honorable Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, United States Senate; to the Honorable Senator Daniel K. Akaka, United States Senate; to the Honorable Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman W.G. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman John D. Dingell, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman Neil Abercrombie, United States House of Representatives; to Mr. William A. Harper, National Commander, National Association of Atomic Veterans; to Mr. Charlie Clark, Hawaii State Commander, National Association of Atomic Veterans; to all the State and Area Commanders of the National Association of Atomic Veterans; to Mr. Robert Celestial, Guam atomic veteran; to the Honorable Angel L.G. Santos, former Senator of I Mina'Bente Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan; to the Honorable George Herbert Walker Bush, former President of the United States of America; to the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, former President of the United States of America; to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Maga'lahaen Guåhan.

REINTRODUCTION OF PHONE BANK LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to subject operators of push polls or phone banks to the same disclosure requirements as other types of political communication. It will not ban push polls or phone banking—it will simply create a level playing field for all types of political communication. Under this bill, any person conducting these types of calls would be required to disclose to each recipient of a call the identity of the organization paying for the call. In addition, the bill would require that campaigns and other organizations that conduct advocacy phone calls report to the Federal Election Commission, FEC, the number of households they have contacted and the script they used in making the calls. The bill would not interfere with legitimate polling, conducted either by candidates or independent organizations, as it would only apply to phone banks in which more than 1,500 households are contacted within the 25 days preceding a Federal election.

IN HONOR OF BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the students, educators and administrators of Benedictine High School of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate seventy-five years of spiritual service and education for the young men of our community.

Benedictine High School, a Catholic, college preparatory school, was founded in 1922 by the Benedictine Order. This historic order of Benedictine monks was borne into existence more than one thousand years ago in 480 A.D. Despite the centuries of time gone by, the rich and significant traditions of the Benedictine Monks of the Middle Ages have been carried through time, and remain living monuments in the form of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School.

The clear and ageless vision of leaders at Benedictine are founded upon the ancient principals of scholarly achievement tempered with spiritual discipline and social awareness. In complement to the school's strong academic foundation, Benedictine's offers its 387 young men opportunities to excel in athletic endeavors and other extracurricular activities.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the students, spiritual guides and administrators of Benedictine High School, as they celebrate seventy five years of exceptional scholastic achievement and significant spiritual guidance within the classrooms and on the surrounding grounds of Benedictine High School. The commitment, kindness, instruction and guidance provided by the Benedictine monks and lay staff have served to lift the spirits and minds of countless young men—thereby uplifting our entire community.

CITATION FOR COLONEL EDGAR J. YANGER, U.S. ARMY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, this citation is presented to Lieutenant Colonel Edgar J. Yanger of Mangilao for his promotion to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army.

Colonel Yanger is the son of Felizardo Galon Yanger and Cecilia Taitano Yanger of Mangilao. He is married to the former Doris San Nicholas Guerrero, daughter of Jesus Calvo Guerrero and Candelaria San Nicholas Guerrero of Sinajana. Edgar and Doris have two children, Melina and Edgar Jonathan.

Colonel Yanger has accomplished much over the past years. He is a graduate of Guam Vocational Technical High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa where he earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in architecture. He received his commission in the Army as an engineer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He went on to graduate from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and from the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Basic and Advance Courses at Fort Belvoir, VA.

Currently, Colonel Yanger is a program manager in the Army's Base Realignment and Closure Division at the Pentagon. He will soon be leaving for duty in Korea, where I am certain that he will continue to serve with the same dedication and commitment that has defined his career.

The people of Guam share the pride that the Yanger family has in the distinguished service and leadership of Colonel Yanger. He exemplifies the courage, strength and determination that defines the Chamorro people. He is a role model for the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces. We commend him for his leadership and look forward to his continued success.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate Colonel Edgar J. Yanger and his family on his many accomplishments, and extend our gratitude for his dedicated service to our island and our country.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE KATHARINE HEPBURN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our nation's most beloved cultural treasures, the great actress Katharine Hepburn, whose death on June 29th has been an occasion for mourning around the globe. Appearing in forty-three films and countless plays and television productions, she received four Academy Awards for her acting abilities, a feat unmatched by any actor in cinematic history. The author of a best-selling memoir, she was one of the most recognized and cherished American women in all the world.

Katharine Hepburn was also beloved by her friends and neighbors on Manhattan's East Side, where she maintained a residence for many years in addition to her home in eastern

Connecticut. For over six decades she lived in a townhouse on East 49th Street in the Turtle Bay neighborhood near the United Nations headquarters. Even after she retired permanently to Connecticut, she remained a generous and loyal dues-paying member of the local community group, the Turtle Bay Association to the end of her life. Her efforts on behalf of the Turtle Bay community led local residents to name a garden in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza on East 47th Street in her honor in 1997. Every year, on her birthday of May 12, the community continues to celebrate their pride in their illustrious neighbor's achievements and character with a display and a ceremony in her honor. Following the news of her death at the age of 96, the Turtle Bay Association and Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza immediately established a memorial in the Katharine Hepburn Garden in tribute to their illustrious and beloved neighbor, complete with photographs, candles and flowers.

Because of her notable achievements on stage and screen and her indomitable and distinctive presence, Katharine Hepburn's spirit and presence will live on forever. It is only fitting that we salute her remarkable life and career and recognize her as a great American.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY MISSION OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the City Mission for providing shelter, hope and faith to individuals and families within our Cleveland community.

The facilities, programs and services that were developed at the Mission in 1910 on Superior Avenue have evolved over the years, but the vision, assistance, compassion and faith have remained a constant source of comfort and hope for more than ninety years. Within the Mission walls, Reverend Peter Bliss, Reverend Robert Sandham, Executive Director Tim Campbell and the nearly forty dedicated staff members continue the Mission legacy of reaching out, empowering and uplifting the hearts, souls and lives of thousands of women, men and children every year.

The Mission's commitment to helping and healing every person that walks through the door is a true testimony to the power of faith, the reality of miracles, and the existence of angels and heroes that walk among us. The angels are those we call staff—the staff who've dedicated their lives to helping others get back in the game. The heroes are those who enter here—despite painful histories, despite illnesses and addictions, despite physical, emotional or financial devastation and despite fear. These heroes among us—the women, men and children of our community—reflect courage, dignity, wisdom, an unfaltering will to survive, a refusal to give up, and an unbreakable inner strength and faith as they rise up into the light of a brighter day.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of the City Mission of Cleveland—a sanctuary in our community. Faith and love abound within these walls, producing miracles everyday—healing the lives of all who enter here—and uplifting our entire community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MRS. SKELTON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker:

Dear Mrs. Skelton, Happy Birthday to You! Juanita Skelton, nee Juanita Katherine Campbell, was born on July 8, 1913, near Panhandle, Texas. She graduated from White Deer (Texas) High School in 1930. That year she was Vice President, Girl Favorite, Editor of the Annual, General News Reporter for the Weekly Newspaper, President of the Library Society, President of the Dramatic Club, and Yell Leader for the Pep Squad, and a guard on the women's basketball team. Of course there were only 13 members of her graduating class. She was referred to as "our seniors' most representative girl."

She graduated from West Texas State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934 and started teaching in Canadian, Texas. She married Hiram Bowmer Skelton on March 3, 1944, when she was 31 years old. They lived in Panhandle, Texas and she helped him run the movie theatre that the family owned. When her husband died, she moved with her son to Arlington, Texas in 1953. She resumed being a high school English teacher at that time. Mrs. Skelton went on to get her Master's in Speech Pathology from Denver University in 1956 and became the first speech therapist in the Arlington School District in 1956. She became the Coordinator of Speech Therapy in 1957 and the Coordinator of Special Education in 1965. She also became the first Director of Special Education in 1974. Mrs. Skelton retired in 1978 after 25 years with the Arlington School District.

During her years in special education, Juanita received the following recognition and awards: President of the Texas Association of Administrators in Special Education "Administrator of the Year Award for Outstanding Leadership;" Texas Council for Exceptional Children Award as the "Outstanding Contributor to Special Education."

In 1989, the Mayor of Arlington, Texas recognized Juanita as the "outstanding senior citizen."

She moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 1997.

Again, congratulations on your 90th birthday!

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman THOMAS' willingness to clarify that FEHBP plans will be able to take advantage of the subsidies in H.R. 1. However, I have another concern that Federal employees are often treated differently from current Federal employees in ways that are not always equitable. For example, current employees are allowed to pay their health insurance premiums from pre-tax dollars; retirees are not. I know this concern is shared by a number of my colleagues, but specifically JO ANN DAVIS, Chair of the Civil Service Subcommittee. I am pleased Mrs. DAVIS will soon be taking up that specific issue in her subcommittee.

FEHBP currently does not provide different benefits for retirees and current employees—one simply is a member of FEHBP. I believe it is important this dynamic remain, once a Medicare prescription drug benefit is put in place. As Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, I look at this from an employer's perspective. We do not want private employers to drop the prescription drug coverage they provide for their retirees. H.R. 1 includes incentives so they will not do so. However, we as the Federal Government must lead by example.

Along with Chairwoman DAVIS, FRANK WOLF, and JIM MORAN, I have introduced legislation that simply states that Federal retirees will remain on par with current employees when it comes to prescription drug benefits. I regret we were unable to include this language in H.R. 1, but am grateful to have the commitment of Speaker HASTERT and Leader DELAY to bring this bill to the floor as soon as we return from recess.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE E. FEDOR MANOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the founding members, current administrators and residents of the George E. Fedor Manor of Lakewood, Ohio, as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

In 1979, Father Richard Ondreyka, Pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, attorney George E. Fedor and local businessman Peter Shimrak brought together their personal and professional experience to form SS. C. & M. Haven, Inc., with the goal of constructing an apartment community for low-income senior citizens.

In May of 1983, Fedor Manor—a not-for-profit facility—opened its doors to welcome its first residents. For twenty years, the 145-unit structure has served as a place of comfort and care for our most treasured citizens—our elderly. Fedor Manor offers an array of social services focused on the emotional, social and physical well-being of every resident.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Twentieth Anniversary of the George E. Fedor Manor. The founding members and their mission have created a structure well beyond mere bricks and steel—they've raised this building as a haven of comfort and peace—and a place where hundreds of seniors along Madison Avenue call 'home'. The collective commitment of staff and residents, woven with the mission of the founding members, has remained constant for two decades: To provide a secure and warm life setting for the seniors of our community. "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home."—Eleanor Roosevelt.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
BRUCE ANTHONY CASELLA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bruce Anthony Casella, who will be appointed as Brigadier General in the Army Reserve and is an individual of great distinction, and we join with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements and expressing pride in this recognition that has been afforded to him;

Whereas, Bruce is a remarkable individual who has devoted his life to serve his country and to proudly protect the citizens of the United States and his unyielding energy and passionate spirit render him a key member of his community and a vital resource to our country;

Whereas, since his graduation from Colfax High School, where he graduated second in his class and lettered in Football and Track, Bruce has worked in varying capacities, providing crucial support to the military community and from his appointment to West Point by Congressman Harold Johnson, where he graduated with honors and received a B.S. degree in engineering and the rank of First Lieutenant, to his tours in Germany and Korea as a regular Army Captain, he has fought tirelessly for our country and its people through his contributions to the management and administration of the U.S. Army;

Whereas, in addition to these contributions, Bruce has received Master of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering and Systems Management and currently works for Agile Communications, Inc. as the Principal Systems Architect and his specific efforts are focused on providing information to the Army on system engineering, communications, networking, and modeling and simulations;

Whereas, I join today with his wife, Catherine, his daughter, Heather, and his sister, Paula, in their joy at this wonderful honor he will receive, knowing he is an inspiration to our country and a patriot in every sense of the word: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, Mr. Speaker, that we salute Bruce Anthony Casella and express admiration he will receive this wonderful and well-deserved honor and hope that others may recognize the immense service he has provided for the people of the United States.

HONORING LEROY RADTKE, JR.

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to bring to the attention of our colleagues a true American hero who was honored in my congressional district recently.

Private First Class LeRoy Radtke, Jr. served our country with honor and dignity. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 20 years old. He did so because he loved his country and he loved the Corps. He was proud to be a Marine and lived his life by a code that only Marines truly understand. He died saving a

member of his unit during a firefight in Vietnam. He was, in the proudest tradition of the Marines, ever faithful to his country and the Corps.

PFC Radtke left America as a young man with many hopes, dreams, and plans for the future. And although most of those plans went unfulfilled, he died being a soldier and fighting for the country he loved. PFC Radtke also left behind a family who loved him and who still grieves his loss. His mother, Dorothy, his sister, Peggy, and his brother, Karl, attended a ceremony this past weekend to add PFC Radtke's name to a memorial of veterans who died defending our country. This memorial, located in New Port Richey in my congressional district, stands as a lasting tribute to the brave men from Pasco County who gave their lives to guard our freedom.

People often forget that the families of our men and women in uniform make many sacrifices while their loved ones are worlds away fighting for us. This is especially true for families of Vietnam veterans. Many veterans of the Vietnam War returned home not to the admiration and reverence they deserved, but to scorn and ridicule from those who opposed the policies of our nation's leaders. They deserved much better. So did the families of those soldiers who did not return safely.

I am humbled to show my gratitude, and that of the House of Representatives, to PFC Radtke and his family. I hope these words will remind them that our country endures only because of people like PFC LeRoy Radtke. America is forever indebted to him. I hope that this small gesture will comfort them when they think of his loss that summer thirty-six years ago.

May God bless his family and may He continue to watch over the United States of America.

REMARKS AT TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to deliver a few remarks at the opening ceremony of the new Korean War exhibit at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri. My remarks are set forth as follows:

CONFLICT AND CONSEQUENCE: THE KOREAN WAR AND ITS UNSETTLED LEGACY

Thank you for inviting me to be with you today for the opening ceremonies of this important new exhibit at the Truman Library. I am humbled to be here, particularly as we honor those who served our country so nobly during the Korean conflict.

This library is a monument to the legacy and achievements of Harry S. Truman and we are blessed to have this renowned resource here in Independence. The Truman Library, and all of our Presidential libraries, are dedicated to the preservation of our nation's historical heritage, as repositories of Presidential papers and memorabilia. As far as I'm concerned, the mission of this Library—particularly its educational function—has never been more important, and the exhibit the Library opens to the public today is especially timely.

I have to admit, and I'm sure this will come as no surprise to anyone, that I am

very sentimental about one of the artifacts on display in this exhibition. You see, my father, Ike Skelton III, was an attorney in Lafayette County and became a friend of Truman's when they met on September 17, 1928. The occasion was the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue—the Madonna of the Trail—located in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri.

They kept up this acquaintance, corresponding periodically, so it seems right in character that my father, a fellow veteran of World War One who served on the USS *Missouri*, sent a telegram to President Truman after the President decided to fire General Douglas MacArthur, letting him know that he agreed with the decision and pledging his continued support and that of Truman's friends in Lafayette County.

This momentous decision—reaffirming the supremacy of civilian control of the military—is full of the drama that makes our history fascinating. And I hope that for others who see this document, this personal note to the President from one of his Missouri friends, it will be meaningful as well.

I know that with the library professionals and historians in the audience I am preaching to the choir, but I am a big believer in the power of history, as was Harry Truman. Truman was an avid reader and student of history. My friend, the late Congressman Fred Schwengel, told me about meeting Senator Truman in 1935 while Schwengel was a college student in Missouri. Truman advised him that to be a good American, "...you should know your history."

That story is consistent with my experience. I well remember taking a group of grade school students to visit the Truman Library in 1963, and though President Truman was of advanced age, he spoke to them in the library auditorium about American history and the Constitution. He wanted young people to learn as much as they could about America.

I do my best to encourage people, particularly young people, to study history. I have embarked on a school visit program I call "History Matters", which gives me the chance to talk about the importance of history whenever I visit schools. I also recently issued a 50-book national security reading list, which is heavy on biographies and histories, including the books I recommend to Members of Congress, military officers, and anyone interested in learning about character, leadership, and military art.

Why do I believe it is so important to keep up our efforts to promote a broad knowledge of history? Let me share this with you for a little perspective. The college student interns who are working in my office this summer were only about 8 years old in 1989 when we witnessed the end of the Cold War with the fall of the Berlin Wall. This major event, as well as the many other significant events and crisis points of the Cold War, are far removed from them. By no fault of their own, they did not experience these events the way many of us did.

It took 50 years of national commitment to see the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. But in spite of the cessation of hostilities in Korea in 1953, U.S. troops still deploy to South Korea to deter invasion from the North. The totalitarian regime of North Korea continues to rattle sabers and threaten not only the future of peace on the peninsula but peace in the region and the world.

Today's college students have lived long enough to experience missile threats from North Korea, including nuclear threats. In spite of the prosperity of the South, and in spite of the passage of more than 50 years, many of the issues splitting the Korean Peninsula are still with us. This exhibit, which

opens today, will be of invaluable help to all of us, but particularly our young people, to understand where we have been and where we are today.

For the last several years, we have recognized and commemorated many of the significant events and milestones of the 20th century. Sometimes when we look back on the past, we tend to remember "the good old days" and think that day-to-day life in America is much more difficult now than it was before. Without a doubt, our country today, in the infancy of the 21st Century, faces significant challenges. But it does us good to remember that the circumstances and state of the world presented to Truman during his Presidency were extraordinarily daunting.

Like the Presidents who came before and after him, Truman was burdened with the loneliness that goes along with being the Chief Executive. But President Truman's character ensured that he did not shy away from difficult, often politically unpopular, decisions. He once said, "Do your duty and history will do you justice."

America had endured the Great Depression. Along with our allies, America fought a long and costly war against fascism. Although there was an understandable euphoria following victory in World War II, the state of the world prompted Truman to move away from America's established pattern of peacetime isolationism in order to assist European economic recovery through the Marshall Plan and to protect Western Europe under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Almost immediately, Harry Truman was forced to confront the reality of the Cold War, and the struggle of the U.S. and other western democracies was on to stop the spread of communism.

Truman had the courage to stand up to the communist aggression that marked the beginning of the Cold War. The Truman Doctrine made clear that the United States would not stand idly by in the face of communist aggression in Greece, Turkey, and elsewhere. Truman's commitment to the democratic rights of free people was clear as the U.S. provided essential supplies to the people of Berlin during the Soviet blockade.

And fifty-three years ago, President Harry S. Truman made the agonizing decision to use American troops to lead the United Nation's resistance to the communist invasion of South Korea. Over the next three years, more than 54,000 Americans paid the ultimate price, with over 33,000 killed in action. Over 110,000 Americans were wounded or missing in action. In addition, over 228,000 South Korean soldiers and untold numbers of civilians gave their lives.

These stark statistics serve as a reminder to all of us that the slogan "freedom is not free" is more than just a few words. The sacrifices of thousands of American service members purchased the freedom that South Koreans enjoy to this day, a freedom that our military continues to protect.

In many respects, our participation in the Korean conflict has served as model for the way our military operates today. Korea was the first multilateral United Nations operation, and it has become the longest standing peacekeeping operation in modern times. The unfortunate experience of Task Force Smith has taught us the paramount importance of sending forces into battle only when they are adequately trained and equipped. We have also learned that units cannot be thrown piecemeal into battle but must be engaged in a coordinated fashion with air and sea power and with overwhelming force. The lessons of the Korean War, taught at such great cost, have served us well in the conflicts in which we have participated since then, from Viet Nam to the Persian Gulf War

to Bosnia, Kosovo, and the War on Terrorism.

As much as we may be inclined to remember the leaders who ultimately brought us victory in the Korean War—Truman, MacArthur, Acheson, Walker, and Ridgway—it is really the men and women who served so bravely to whom we pay tribute. Without their selfless dedication, valor, and perseverance, the people of South Korea would not be living in a free and prosperous society.

To the veterans of the Korean conflict—those who are with us today, those who never returned home, and those who we have lost in the years since—we say thank you. Each of you who lost friends or family members who died during this conflict understand that their loss creates a void that can never be filled. Three of my close friends—a high school classmate, a Boy Scout buddy, and a friend from Wentworth Military Academy Junior College—were killed in Korea. You were the ones who carried out the orders of the Commander-In-Chief, President Truman, who drew a line in the sand. This line was held by your blood, sweat, and tears. You gave of your youth to stop the spread of communism. I maintain that these fledgling efforts, these supreme sacrifices, were the foundation of our victory in the Cold War, some 50 years later.

I know that you must feel a special kinship with our men and women who today are serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. You, perhaps as much as anyone, understand the hardship of fighting a war, a continent away from home, a war to ensure the survival of a nation and a way of life. What they are doing today will set the stage for the next 50 years, and I suspect that, like the Cold War, it may well be 50 years before we know for sure whether we have won the War Against Terrorism and brought peace and stability to the Middle East in the wake of the Iraq War.

We would all do well to live by Truman's advice, "Do your duty, and history will do you justice." The tough decisions made by Truman earned the praise of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said to Truman, "You, more than any other man, have saved Western civilization." History has indeed done justice and given evidence to Truman's wisdom, strength, and vision. What we learn from the past enable us to do our duty today as well.

God bless.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND-MARSHALL LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS THEY RECOGNIZE THE HONORABLE DIANE J. KARPINSKI AND HOWARD D. MISHKIND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association as they recognize alumni Judge Diane Karpinski and Attorney Howard D. Mishkind—distinguished alumni of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Class of 1980.

The mission of the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association (CMLAA) is to promote, support and serve the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, its alumni, faculty and students by offering quality education, professional programs, and professional opportunities to assist in career and educational advancement of

every alumnus. Additionally, CMLAA life membership dues fund a vital Student Scholarship Program.

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni—Judge Diane J. Karpinski and Attorney Howard D. Mishkind, have evolved from law school graduates in 1980, to leaders in the legal profession. Both have raised the bar of excellence in their prospective areas of law and reflect outstanding professional profiles that encompass integrity, expertise, and service to others. While ascending throughout their legal endeavors, Judge Diane Karpinski and Attorney Howard Mishkind have remained committed to supporting the Cleveland College of Law and their community, and have become superior role models for the youth of our community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Judge Diane Karpinski and Attorney Howard D. Mishkind, as they are duly recognized by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association for their significant professional achievements and, more importantly, for their service to the College and to our community. I also stand in honor of the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association, for their continued support of educational excellence; for their promotion and support of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law graduates and alumni; and for providing countless students an opportunity to attain a superior law education through the organization of scholarship funds. Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, its faculty, students and alumni have demonstrated academic and professional excellence within all areas of law, earning the highest respect and admiration of our entire community and beyond.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL 375 FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACK ON NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Civil Service Technical Guild, Local 375, for its work on behalf of the people of New York. In particular, I applaud the members for their continuing efforts to rebuild the City's infrastructure after the destruction caused by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on New York City.

The 6,800 member local, headed by President Claude Fort, has been a New York City mainstay for decades, building and maintaining vital components of the city's infrastructure. Since its inception in 1937, the local's engineers, architects, scientists, chemists, planners and other technical specialists have designed, constructed, and maintained the City's infrastructure of bridges, highways, subways, sewer and water systems, schools and libraries; they also enforce air, water, fire, and building codes.

Hundreds of members are currently at work on a massive project to add a third water tunnel in the New York City area. The "Third Water Tunnel Project" is a system of sixty miles of underground aqueducts running through Westchester, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn. When completed, the tunnel will increase water delivery for the

City's eastern and southern areas, allow drainage and treatment of the two existing tunnels, and provide an alternate delivery water system in the event service is disrupted in either of the two existing tunnels.

Since the September 11 attack, Local 375 members have worked on every aspect of restoring the City's vital systems to full service. They helped restore the Cortlandt Street Subway Station and lines that had been buried by debris and flooded by broken water mains after the collapse of the Twin Towers. Hundreds of tons of debris were removed from the tunnels while engineers ensured that the rescue and recovery work could proceed safely.

Local 375 members worked arduously from the time they were dispatched to Ground Zero immediately following the September 11, 2001, attack. Dedicated professional and technical workers performed flawlessly in cleaning up the site in dangerous demolition operations. In addition to strategic planning for the job, they monitored air quality and tested for anthrax. They even assisted in recovery and rescue efforts, and conducted DNA testing for victim identification. Members inspected adjacent buildings to ensure that all fire protection systems were working.

Few people outside of New York City know who is responsible for the life sustaining work that they do, but the fact is that without Local 375, New York could not exist as a City. I commend the union's leaders and the entire membership, many of whom reside in my Congressional District, for their contributions to our City and for performing their difficult jobs in a manner above and beyond the call of duty.

IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER
CHARLES J. BRONSTON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Police Officer Charles J. Bronston Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Bay Village Police Division that spans thirty-five years of dedication to the Force and honor to the Badge—Badge No 1. On April 8, 1968, Officer Bronston pledged his life to protecting the safety of others and was sworn in as Patrol Officer.

Growing up on the North Coast solidified Officer Bronston's love for the great outdoors and crystallized his deep commitment to his community on the Bay. His outstanding work and personal dedication to helping others was clearly reflected throughout his tenure of service. Officer Bronston's great enthusiasm for life, his kind and friendly nature, and his immediate willingness to help others elevated him to the highest level and best example of what a police officer should be.

Officer Bronston is so highly regarded within the Bay Village Police Division that its leaders informally judge all recruits against the stellar performance of Officer Bronston. Officer Bronston consistently went above and beyond the call of duty to protect and assist those who live and work in Bay Village. A true mentor, guide and friend, Officer Bronston's professionalism, expertise, sense of fairness, superior sense of humor, integrity and genuine

concern for others have served to assist and improve numerous life situations for many people. In addition, his interest in protecting his community extends beyond Bay Village into neighboring suburbs, as is reflected in his ongoing membership of the first SWAT Team for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Officer Charles J. Bronston upon his retirement as full-time Police Officer with the Bay Village Police Division. His exceptional and courageous service on behalf of the citizens of Bay Village and beyond have served to lift the spirits and the lives of countless individuals, families within Bay Village and all along our western shores. We wish Officer Bronston, his wife Martha, children Charles III and Michael Scott and grandchildren Felicia and Cory many blessings of peace, health and happiness throughout his retirement. We also wish him many clear summer days of great fishing along the rolling waves, bays and shores of Lake Erie.

COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF
MRS. JANE LAKIN UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING FOLLOWING A 40 YEAR CAREER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the true heroes of Tennessee's Second Congressional District. For forty years Mrs. Jane Lakin has changed the lives of thousands in the Knoxville community through her dedicated service as an elementary school teacher at both the Alice Bell and Spring Hill schools. Having seriously considered a career in teaching myself and having taught briefly at T.C. Williams School in Northern Virginia, I can say without hesitation that this career is one of the most challenging and rewarding any person can undertake.

Each Member of this body understands the vital role teachers play in shaping the lives of our youth and I believe every teacher is to be commended. However, to dedicate forty years of one's life to improving and enhancing the education of children is truly exceptional.

During Mrs. Lakin's career America has experienced tremendous change. While the Nation grieved the tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination and witnessed the triumphant raising of our Flag on the Moon, Mrs. Lakin walked each morning into a classroom and changed a student's life. As America grew through the turmoil of Viet Nam and later hailed our victory of the Cold War, Mrs. Lakin taught our children, one class at a time, the value and joy of learning. The world has changed and our Country has grown during the past 40 years, but Mrs. Lakin's love of educating the young men and women of Knoxville has never wavered.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District, I want to thank Mrs. Lakin for her tireless work and her consistent encouragement of her students. Whether or not these students ever have the opportunity to tell her, she has changed their lives for the better and we are all in her debt.

The Knoxville News Sentinel recently published an article on Mrs. Lakin and her retire-

ment. I would like to include this article in its entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I hope that women and men teaching today will look to Mrs. Lakin's example as an inspiration and a confirmation of the tremendous value they bring to our Country.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 9, 2003]

SPRING HILL TEACHER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

(By Ed Marcum)

There's an odd thing about working with your former fourth-grade teacher, said Jackie Pena, who teaches kindergartners at Spring Hill Elementary School. Even after you have grown up, it's hard to forget that you once sat at a little desk in her classroom. Pena said that's why it was hard for her to think of Jane Lakin as just another one of the teachers at Spring Hill.

"The hardest thing was to get used to not calling her Mrs. Lakin," Pena said. Lee Ann Parker, who was a classmate of Pena's in the fourth grade, agreed. Parker, the music teacher at Spring Hill, said it felt funny to call Lakin by her first name. "You just don't say that to your teacher," she said.

Lakin has retired after 40 years' teaching in the Alice Bell/Spring Hill community. "Forty years and six months," Lakin said to be precise.

Irene Patterson, guidance counselor at Spring Hill, got to work closely with Lakin over the years.

"A lot of seasoned teachers get set in their ways, but she was always willing to try something new," Patterson said. "And she did a lot of things for children that no one knew about."

"She would come into my office and say, 'Irene, I noticed that such-and-such student is wearing her big sister's worn-out shoes, so I've bought her a pair.'"

The student would get a new pair of shoes anonymously. Patterson said Lakin brought in such gifts a number of times.

Pena remembers that Lakin was always eager to help new teachers.

"She has always made people feel welcome and has been a mentor to new teachers," Pena said.

Lakin, who lives in Ritta, moved to Knoxville in 1962 from Chattanooga, where she had taught for a year. She found a position at Alice Bell Elementary and taught there until 1991, when that school was consolidated into Spring Hill Elementary.

Lakin said when you spend your whole career teaching in the same general neighborhood, you end up teaching the children of the children you have taught, and you run into former students most every time you go to the grocery store.

"I never really meant to stay here 40 years, but it just worked out that way," she said. Teaching has changed since 1962, Lakin said. Teachers had more flexibility then.

"In those days, the things you taught were mostly by your own design. Now someone tells you what to teach," she said.

Lakin said she and other teachers stayed on the lookout for ideas to try out in the classroom. She said she became a "pack rat," always scrounging thrift stores or yard sales for craft items, plastic boxes or any materials that might come in handy in class. She said plastic boxes are essential for storing supplies.

"Teachers ought to buy stock in plastic boxes," Lakin said.

There are so many classroom requirements now that a teacher's time in the classroom is much more regimented, Lakin said.

"You just feel like you can't do something unless it will be on a test. There's no time for fun things," she said.

Pena and Parker said some of their fondest memories were of Lakin bringing in books and reading them to the class. She is a good dramatic reader, they said.

Lakin and her husband, Nelson Lakin, own a farm in Rittita, and Patterson said she will always remember the roses that Lakin grew there and brought to the school office. Lakin said some of her favorite memories are of the years her students made trees for the Fantasy of Trees holiday celebration.

"Of course, they hated to give up the tree, once we finished," Lakin said. "We would usually have to make two of everything so the students would have ornaments to take home with them."

Then there were the occasional bizarre moments, like the time a boy brought a skunk to school for show-and-tell.

"It got loose and ran all over the school," she said. "Luckily, its scent gland had been removed." Eventually the skunk was apprehended.

Lakin remembers when Pena and Parker were in her class. They were both good students, Lakin said, although Pena sometimes talked when she wasn't supposed to. Lakin said that on at least one occasion she had to have a word with Parker.

"I think Lee Ann was the more mischievous," Lakin said. "She had a club, and she was charging everyone on the playground to belong to it."

Both women chuckled, and Parker rolled her eyes.

"It only cost a nickel," she said.

"It had to be disbanded," Lakin said.

Lakin said she will miss the classroom, but she looks forward to having more time for gardening and maybe doing a little traveling.

"I might do some volunteer work, too," she said.

TRIBUTE TO LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the high achievements of the boys' lacrosse team from Lafayette High School. After a disappointing loss 3 years ago, the Lancers finally got another shot at the state title, and came home crowned the New York State Section III Champions.

The Lafayette lacrosse program has taken home many Sectional titles in the past, but according to Athletic Director Jerry Kelly, this year's team is one of the best he's seen in ten years. After an outstanding spring season with a final record of 23-1, it seemed only fitting that this well-trained group of young men should win this final game.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions on their remarkable achievement: Haiwha Nanticoke, Brendan Storrier, Pat Shannahan, Lee Nanticoke, Josh Groth, James Pierce, Blake Gale, Andrew Spack, Andrew Thurston, Jeremy Thompson, Jerome Thompson, Tyler Gale, Wes Adam, Kevin Wilkerson, Brian Gormley, Nick Lavdas, Kevin Bucktooth Jr., Matt Noble, Jaimee Loughtin, Andy Gaffield, John Paige, Brion Salitino, Randy Hadzor, Ross Bucktooth, Spencer Lyons, Pat Dwyer, Head Coach Greg Scott, and Assistant Coaches Kevin Gale, Mike Riese, and Jerome Thompson.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I support this new, innovative Medicare prescription drug benefit, and commend Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman TAUZIN and Health Subcommittee Chairman BILIRAKIS for developing a proposal that is fiscally responsible, modernizes the Medicare program, and delivers a sound prescription drug benefit.

A prescription drug benefit in Medicare is the most important social policy that Congress can deliver this Congress. Period.

My home state of Pennsylvania has the second highest number of seniors in the country, and these seniors are living longer, healthier lives, thanks in part to modern medications. Death rates from heart disease, cancer and stroke are going down, and hundreds of new medications are now being developed to combat diseases of aging, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and arthritis.

Unfortunately, along with these new drug therapies comes a higher price to those that need them. Seniors without adequate access to these drugs will not be able to benefit from the stunning advances in health care resulting from the newest pharmaceutical products. Society will spend more money on their health care, because many new drugs actually serve as preventive measures and often prevent costly hospitalizations.

Medicare in its current form does not cover most prescription drugs. When it was created in 1965, it was a good program for its time. President Johnson, on signing Medicare into law on July 30, 1965, said, "No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years."

But with advancements in drug treatment, modern medicine has grown increasingly expensive, as Medicare does not pay for these wonderful outpatient drugs. We need to modernize Medicare. As long as Medicare does not cover outpatient drug benefits, seniors will not be as healthy as they could be, and they will pay more out-of-pocket costs for preventive medications.

Nearly two-thirds of seniors have some insurance coverage that helps pay for prescription drugs through private employer plans or supplemental (Medigap) coverage; however, the remaining third has absolutely no coverage for prescription drugs.

This is not good enough. Seniors, living on limited income, should not be the last payers of retail prices for drugs in our great country. But we should not impose price controls so that seniors can afford their prescriptions. Instead, we need to use the tools that the private sector does, using leverage and bargaining for discounts. Medicare needs to take advantage of reduced prices that we can achieve using the tools that are used by private entities, operating in the employer-provided health care market.

We need to be careful about how we reform Medicare. Those two-thirds of seniors who

have drug coverage are pleased with what coverage they have and don't want a big government solution that could increase their costs. Congress passed the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act in 1988 with the intention of easing the cost of catastrophic events for Medicare recipients. However, instead of helping, it made things much worse for seniors who already had catastrophic coverage. They ended up paying more out-of-pocket for fewer health benefits. It was so devastating that Congress was forced to repeal the legislation the very next year.

Mr. Speaker, this bill finds the right mix. It establishes a generous prescription drug benefit, using the private sector tools that provide significant savings for seniors when they purchase prescription drugs. And, it reforms and strengthens the Medicare program in the right way.

This bill also provides significant relief to seniors in Pennsylvania by strengthening the Medicare+Choice program. Over the past few years, seniors who have enrolled in Medicare+Choice have seen programs increase their premiums, decrease their benefits, or leave the program altogether. For example, in the largest plan in my district, seniors have seen their premiums rise from \$0 to \$94 per month.

This bill stabilizes the Medicare+Choice program. And, it fundamentally reforms the program by creating the "MedicareAdvantage" program. This program provides for significantly more stability by allowing for competitive bidding by the plans. The MedicareAdvantage program will help these plans so that they remain a viable option for millions of seniors, and continue to provide a variety of health services, such as vision, hearing, and preventative care that are not offered through the traditional Fee for Service program.

Mr. Speaker, let me talk for a minute about the reforms in the bill. It provides for the creation of a new enhanced fee-for-service program that gives beneficiaries new options and choices for services. Finally, the Medicare program will incorporate the most popular option in private health insurance (and the health insurance offered in the federal employees health benefits program), preferred provider organizations (PPO). These new PPOs will create significant new options for services for seniors.

Furthermore, this bill will not only include improving access to prescription drugs, but will modernize the Medicare program by increasing the availability of wellness programs and streamlining the often cumbersome paperwork that seniors face in getting Medicare benefits.

Finally, I am pleased that H.R. 1 has included provisions to reform the payments for the drugs that Medicare does cover in part B. These reforms represent the culmination of a multi-year investigation by the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Presently, providers are reimbursed for the cost of these drugs at 95 percent of the average wholesale price (AWP). Congress and Medicare officials have wrestled for years with the difficult issue of how to set a fair and appropriate Medicare reimbursement rate for prescription drugs covered by Medicare part B. The reimbursement benchmark we have used since the early 1990s has been the AWP, which is reported by drug companies and price reporting services. prior to that, providers were reimbursed on a cost basis, which is cumbersome and inflationary.

Over the past decade, what we have learned is that the AWP is a fictitious number that must be changed. Rather than an accurate barometer of the price at which physicians purchase the drugs used in their practice, the AWP benchmark is more like a car's "sticker price," which is usually much higher than the actual acquisition cost. Under competitive pressure, manufacturers and wholesalers will routinely discount drug prices to physicians, lower their cost, while maintaining a higher AWP. In a competitive spiral, these discounts grow, increasing the net profits on the drugs, while the Medicare program continues to pay the higher AWP.

Unfortunately, due to the 20 percent copay that all beneficiaries pay for part B services, Medicare beneficiaries presently pay \$200 million more than they should in inflated co-pays. What's more, the Medicare program itself pays over \$1 billion more than we should.

The new system, based on competitive bidding and choice, pays appropriately for drugs and reimburses physicians appropriately for services. Under this new model, we provide physicians a choice—either continue to do business as they have or enter a new program that provides drugs to physicians for administration on a replacement basis. These reforms are fair, sound and must be enacted.

Earlier this year, Congress set aside \$400 billion for the development of a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. This is a significant and meaningful commitment by Congress for our Nation's seniors. Some may quibble about the size of the benefit. However, I am convinced that we can pass legislation so that every senior has access to the latest prescription drug products and has catastrophic coverage for very serious, very costly medical conditions. We owe it to our seniors to pass and have the President sign into law, a prescription drug benefit this year.

HONORING PASTOR G.L. JOHNSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor G.L. Johnson for his 40 years of ministry with Peoples Church in Fresno, California. He will be honored at a special dinner for civic and community leaders to be held Saturday, June 28th.

Pastor Johnson came to Fresno as the Associate Director of the Latin American Orphanage. In 1963, he accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Peoples Church, having had over ten years of pastoral experience. Under his leadership, People's Church has grown to become the largest Protestant Church in Central California, with an average Sunday attendance of 4,500. The Johnson Scholarship Fund has also been established in his honor to assist young people with the cost of education prior to entering full-time ministry.

Pastor Johnson has poured his life into Fresno for the sake of the Kingdom of God. He derives great joy in knowing that God has used his ministry to bring thousands to know Jesus Christ. The mission of Peoples Church seems to coincide with that of Pastor Johnson's personal mission, to "Reach . . . Win . . . Train . . . Send." It has been said that

Pastor Johnson was to Peoples Church ". . . what Babe Ruth was to baseball, George Washington to the United States, and the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles."

Pastor Johnson's respect and admiration go beyond the walls of Peoples Church. In 1997, he was listed by the Fresno Bee as one of 75 people who made a positive contribution to life in the Central Valley. He and the late Pastor Bufo Karraker gathered church and local leaders to tackle the issue of crime in Fresno, forming the NoName Fellowship, and reached beyond the church family to touch lives of the citizens in the city. Pastor Johnson has been the recipient of numerous awards such as the Distinguished Service Award of the City of Fresno, "Mayor of Fresno, For the Day" in 1973 and 1987, and listed in "Who's Who" for Fresno and American Religion. He also sits on several boards, including the Sequoia Council of Boy Scouts of America, Fresno Leadership Foundation, Police Activities League, and Northern California National Association of Evangelicals.

Pastor Johnson has spoken at numerous Christian Universities and conferences across the country. In addition to his ministry in the United States, he has ministered to large crowds in Seoul, Korea; to Russian leaders following the fall of Communism; and to Christians in Romania and China. Pastor Johnson is also the author of several booklets and articles including How to Conduct a Stewardship Campaign in the Local Church.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor G.L. Johnson for his years of ministry and outstanding personal contributions to the community of Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Johnson many years of continued success.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL REYNOLDS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Dr. Michael Reynolds, PhD, to the advancement of science education, to the creation and development of the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, California, and to the science education of young students in Oakland, the East Bay and Northern California.

Dr. Reynolds was hired as Executive Director of the historic Chabot Observatory and Science Center in 1991, after being named Florida Science Educator of the Year and being a finalist in the NASA Teacher in Space Program.

Dr. Reynolds led the team, which conceived, financed and built the new Chabot Space and Science Center, with energy, enthusiasm and skill. The center is a jewel of Northern California.

Dr. Reynolds has built programs with the United States Air Force, NASA, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Education to further Science Education and the public understanding of the frontiers of space science.

Under Dr. Reynolds leadership, the new Chabot Space and Science Center has become internationally renowned for its science education programs.

Dr. Reynolds has secured, with NSF funding, a major new traveling exhibit from the People's Republic of China, consisting of artifacts and instruments used in ancient Chinese astronomy, that will tour the United States under the title of "Dragon Skies".

On behalf of the children, parents, educators of Oakland, of California and of the nation, I want to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Michael Reynolds, PhD, to the advancement of science education and understanding, and for the building of the new Chabot Space and Science Center, which will serve as a place of inspiration and learning for generations to come.

On behalf of my constituents and myself I wish to recognize the accomplishments of an educator, scientist, astronomer, dreamer, and an eternal optimist whose watchword is "Keep Looking Up."

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed that the Rules Committee did not make in order an opportunity for an alternative proposal from my colleagues Ellen Tauscher and Cal Dooley, in the form of H.R. 1568. Looking carefully at the arguments from both sides of the aisle on the proposals before us today, I am inclined to think that they are both right. There are egregious problems in the proposal by the Republicans. It is going to have serious dislocative effects; it doesn't adequately meet the needs of low-income people; it could actually deteriorate prescription drug coverage for others; and, it extends services to many who do not need it.

The Democratic alternative is well-intentioned and more generous, but there are questions about whether this will be affordable over time. We may be biting off more than we can sustain as Medicare goes into a time of severe strain with regard to cost and the capacity to meet the needs of an exploding retirement population.

I continue to be troubled that low income senior citizens without drug coverage pay the highest prices in the world for their medicines. This is intolerable. There is real potential to harness the vast purchasing power of the United States to negotiate better prices, the same way private employers, local governments and hospitals do. The power of the free market and negotiation should not be denied to the sector that would benefit from it the most. There is no reason that the nation's Medicare recipients should pay a higher price for the same drugs that recipients who are part of our veterans program receive. We can craft a program that is not unduly coercive, and does not lead to a disruption of the drug industry. The pharmaceutical industry needs to be more accommodating of this approach, or I feel that they will inevitably end up with far more draconian solutions. They cannot continue to mine gold from low income senior citizens.

The alternative that I would rather have had on the floor today would expend the same

amount of money that we have determined is affordable, and target it to low-income seniors without coverage, and people with extraordinarily high prescription drug needs. That is where we should target our Medicare resources. It would permit us to keep promises made to help remedy this serious situation. It does not over commit, and leaves the way open for subsequent Medicare reform. It would appear that if either of the other two bills were adopted, it would make long term reform more difficult and would pose significant budget pressures at a time when our fiscal policies are in disarray.

I truly think this is one of those times when less actually is more, and being careful will pay long-term dividends. I am voting accordingly, against the two alternatives, and hope that Congress will reach the point where we can have a more targeted, sustainable, and effective approach that can provide a foundation for future reform.

HONORING MRS. ODELL KINNEY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a citizen who exemplified the spirit of self-reliance and a concern for others that we can all learn from. Mrs. Odell Kinney was a pillar of society, particularly among her community in Cleveland, OH.

Mrs. Kinney gained a well-founded reputation for taking in children of the neighborhood and dedicating her time to the development of her community for over 30 years. She made a lifelong commitment to raising 18 children who loved and admired her dearly. She was also a daycare provider for over 20 years.

Her dedication to children has inspired the Odell Kinney Scholarship Fund. The goal of the Odell Kinney Scholarship Fund is to award an annual scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to a deserving student.

Among her abundant contributions to society, Mrs. Kinney was a member of the PTA, a persistent entrepreneur, an active member of the Lee/Harvard Ward Club and served as President of her street club for 10 years. She provided food baskets to the needy on an ongoing basis, served as a church missionary and a Bible school teacher.

There are hundreds of individuals, if not thousands whose lives Mrs. Kinney touched in a beautiful way. They will never be the same again:

"They don't make 'em like Odell anymore," said Mr. Simmons, a childhood friend.

"She had a beautiful spirit," said business partner, Brenda McCants.

"She was at the top of her game, committed and dedicated to the community and came from a great generation of black women," said Cleveland Councilman Joe Jones.

The biggest commitment she made was the love of God and God's children. In essence, Mrs. Odell Kinney had a heart as big as Texas. The lingering effects of her good work will last forever.

AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, an unfortunate pattern is developing with the Bush Administration—militarily, in Afghanistan and Iraq, American forces have been extremely successful. I voted for the military action in Afghanistan, and against that in Iraq, but it is obvious that in both cases the American military performed extremely well and the people of the United States can be confident of the ability of our armed forces to do whatever is necessary to protect us and to advance our legitimate security interests.

Unfortunately, this administration's record in the aftermath of these military victories has been much less reassuring. The situation in Iraq is of course a very distressing one, and is widely known. In part because of the attention that is understandably focused on Iraq, with the continuing toll on American military personnel and the chaos and political troubles in the country, Afghanistan has to some extent been, as the headline in The New York Times for July 1 says, "Lost in the Shuffle."

I recently met in my office here with representatives of Afghans for a Civil Society, and I was troubled by the grave defects they described in American policy there. In particular, we are clearly doing much too little to support President Karzai—who seems to be a man genuinely trying to promote democracy and economic development in a difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, I supported America's military intervention into Afghanistan to deal with the terrorists who had unleashed mass murder on the United States. And I believe that overthrowing the brutal, bigoted Taliban regime was also a service to human rights. But having done that, we have an obligation to help put a coherent government in Afghanistan in its place, and I regret to say that I do not think this administration is showing sufficient will in this regard.

Subsequent to my meeting with people from Afghans for a Civil Society, I read last week in The New York Times a very thoughtful and disturbing article by Sarah Chayes, who had been in that meeting, in which she points to one of the central weaknesses of America's policy in Afghanistan. Because redeeming our obligation to the people of Afghanistan is so important both in moral and geopolitical terms, I ask that Sarah Chayes' important article be printed here.

[From the New York Times, July 1, 2003]

AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE, LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

(By Sarah Chayes)

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—en miles outside this dust-blown city, the historical capital of Afghanistan, gunmen belonging to the local warlord guard the airport, which American forces use as a base. The hefty fee the guards get from the United States has allowed them to build a marble-faced barracks nearby.

Kandaharis, baffled, keep asking me, "Why are the Americans helping President Harold Karzai and helping his enemies, the warlords, too?" To them the problem with this practice is clear: United States policy is in danger of failing because America won't stop hedging its bets. At stake is not just the fu-

ture of Afghanistan, but a whole region's hopes of escaping a 30-year nightmare. And ultimately, what happens in Afghanistan will shape relations between the Muslim world and the West.

The hedging of bets has taken many forms since the fall of the Taliban a year and a half ago: a dizzying succession of officers at the United States Embassy for the first six months; the lack of any reconstruction projects outside Kabul until after the grand council chose Mr. Karzai as transitional president; and later, international donors' obsession with quick-impact projects, known as quips, that didn't cost much and wouldn't be much of a loss if they failed.

Afghans, meanwhile, have been waiting for major reconstruction that would make a real difference. The Kabul-Kandahar road, on which work has only just begun, has become a cause célèbre. What was once a six-hour trip to the capital to deliver, say, Kandahar grapes, and the exquisitely fragrant raisins they dry into, is now a three-day trek—and 72 hours on the road means grape mash. A good road to Kabul would make all the difference to Kandahar's merchants, and jump start a whole region's economy.

And what about other projects that would substantially improve Afghan lives? There's the road to Urozgan, an isolated town that is easy prey to Islamic extremists and is at minimum a nine-hour drive from Kandahar along a ribbon of iron-hard dirt. The Helmand Province irrigation system, built by American engineers in the late 1950s, now lies crippled after years of neglect and Soviet sabotage. Donors, however, are loath to commit their money to big projects like these.

But the most dangerous form of bet-hedging has been American support for local strongmen. Eager for Afghan forces to help fight the Taliban, the United States brought these warlords back from exile after 9/11. What began as a relationship of convenience was cemented in a brotherhood of arms, as United States troops fraternized with the exotic fighters they had bivouacked with. Because they had reaped weapons and cash in the bargain, the warlords were able to impose themselves as provincial governors, despite being reviled by the Afghan people, as every conversation I've had and study I've done demonstrates.

Their positions have been reinforced by international donors who, for convenience's sake, distribute much of their reconstruction assistance through the warlords. The donors' reasoning sounds plausible: "So-and-so is the governor," numerous United States officials have told me. "The day President Karzai removes him, we will support that decision. But until then, we have to work with him." It's a bit disingenuous, since this explanation ignores the way these men became governors.

It also begs the truth. In late May, President Karzai summoned to Kabul the 12 governors who control Afghanistan's strategic borders. For the previous fortnight, Afghan and international officials say, he had been preparing to dismiss the most egregious offenders: four or five governors who are running their provinces like personal fiefs, who withhold vast customs revenue from the central government, who truck with meddlesome foreign governments, who oppress their people, who turn a blind eye to extremist activities while trumpeting their anti-Taliban bona fides. United States officials, saying they were taken aback by the scope of the Afghan government's plan, discouraged him. The plan was scrapped, and the Afghan government made do with an agreement in which the recalcitrant governors promised to hand over customs revenue owed the central government.

Washington, in other words, wouldn't stop hedging its bets. The United States backs Mr. Karzai, but it can't relinquish its alliances with the enemies of all he stands for.

But President Karzai bears part of the blame. He, too, has been hedging his bets. His endlessly polite interactions with his predator governors are confusing his constituents. Although Washington thought firing half a dozen governors was too much, it would have supported the dismissal of one or two, and Mr. Karzai wasted a golden opportunity by refusing to do that.

The problem is, no matter what they say, these warlords aren't going to behave. They are not reformable, because it is not in their interest to reform. The warlords' livelihood depends on extremism and lawlessness. That's how they draw their pay; that's what allows them to rule by the gun in an unofficial martial law, looting villages under the pretext of mopping-up operations, extracting taxes and bribes, crushing opponents.

The American alliance with warlords also discourages ordinary Afghans from helping rebuild their country. And without the people, the process is doomed. Afghans I have met and worked with share a fierce desire to live in a normal country. They have demonstrated that desire. In the face of tremendous adversity, they have managed to open schools, clean irrigation ditches, plant trees and dig sewers. But seeing warlords regain power is making people waver. I have found in my work that more and more Afghans are withdrawing to the sidelines, subtracting their life force from the battle to reconstruct Afghanistan.

They are also increasingly wary about the elections next year. At a recent meeting here with representatives from the commission that's drafting a new constitution, a nursing student asked, "How can we freely elect our representatives with warlords controlling the countryside?"

Despite American officials' misgivings, it would not be so difficult to remove the warlord-governors. Their lack of popular support means no one would fly to their defense were they dismissed. The mere display of American backing for a plan to oust them would be enough to cow their paid liegemen. In the interest of offering Afghanistan a chance at a future, and opening the door to a new kind of relationship with the Muslim world, the United States should back any future decision to remove the warlord-governors.

For despite the rocky start to reconstructing postwar Afghanistan, an ember of hope for the country's future is still burning. Several high caliber diplomats are now at the American embassy. American military commanders, who by training focus on battle plans, have begun to realize that their activities can have unintended political consequences if they do not have intimate knowledge of the people they are dealing with. These officers have grown more alert to the ways in which local warlords may be using them. In Kandahar, the base commander has begun meeting with tribal elders to forge links with the population. In other words, the United States is finally positioned to do a good job here.

When President Bush decided to invade Iraq, he promised that Afghanistan would not be forgotten. If that promise is to mean anything, America's accumulated experience in Afghanistan must be acted upon, unequivocally. It's time to stop hedging bets.

H.R. 1828, SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today I joined a growing number of my colleagues in cosponsoring H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

I sponsored this legislation because I believe that Syria presents a unique threat to the peace, security and stability in the Middle East. Syria is geographically central in the region, but it is also central to the peaceful evolution of the region.

Continued Syrian sponsorship of terrorism threatens to unravel renewed efforts at peace in the region. President Bush's Road Map is at risk because of this state-sponsored terrorism and we must indicate the serious consequences of Syria's destabilizing activity.

This legislation gives the President the leverage he needs to persuade the Syrian regime to reconsider its role in the region. The fall of Iraq represented only the first in a series of positive changes that will sweep through the Middle East in the coming years, and Syria has an opportunity to be on the right side of history. The possibility of this legislation becoming law should be understood as a clear warning about the position of the House of Representatives.

At the same time, I do not believe that H.R. 1828 is a perfect bill. It needs to be improved before it is sent to the President for his signature. I am cosponsoring the bill out of a desire to move this legislation forward, but believe a number of changes are necessary.

First, the legislation must specifically define the meaning of "food and medicine" in Section 5(a). Specifically, this section should be brought into conformity with the definitions of "agricultural commodity," "medicine" and "medical device" included in the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-387). Enactment of this legislation three years ago signaled Congressional intent to prohibit unilateral sanctions on food and medicine. To ensure there is no confusion by implementing agencies that have historically demonstrated hostility to excepting categories of exports from unilateral sanctions, it is necessary to include very specific definitions.

Second, the legislation must incorporate sunset clauses for both the authorization of sanctions and for any sanctions that are imposed through Section 5(a)2. Congress should not impose sanctions in perpetuity, for while we are often quick to impose sanctions; we are not nearly as effective at repealing dated restrictions. Sanctions, fundamentally, should be an aberration to how the United States approaches other nations. Our bilateral relationship should stress engagement over restrictions, but in certain exceptional cases, sanctions may be necessary. These sanctions should be temporary in nature to encourage future Congressional scrutiny of the continued value of the restrictions. Should sanctions be perceived necessary in the future than future Congresses are likely to extend the prohibitions beyond the sunset period. Sunset peri-

ods also encourage rogue regimes to recognize that there is an opportunity to improve their relations with the United States. Should rogues wish to reengage with the United States, they need only to change their behavior. Regular Congressional review of sanctions ensures that this change in behavior will have a chance to be acknowledged. Conversely, permanent sanctions can backfire by signaling to the rogue state intent to isolate, irrespective of the nation's willingness to respond with reforms. The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act outlines a two-year sunset for unilateral agricultural or medical sanctions. H.R. 1828 must incorporate a similar sunset provision.

Third, the legislation must provide greater flexibility to the Executive Branch in the imposition of sanctions. Section 5(b) provides a waiver from the imposition of sanctions if the President determines that it is in "the vital national security interest of the United States to do so." Such a waiver sets the bar too high and is potentially restrictive of the exercise of foreign policy by the Executive Branch. The Libertad Act (P.L. 104-114), for example, sets for a "national interest" waiver for Title III sanctions.

Fourth, the legislation must place a greater priority on cooperation with our allies in the imposition of sanctions. Sanctions tend to be effective when they are imposed under a multilateral framework. Unilateral sanctions isolate the United States as much as they isolate the targeted nation. Diplomacy, as in nature, abhors a vacuum and will fill it. A loss of American influence will be replaced by other nations unless sanctions are imposed through a broad, multilateral coalition. The United States must persuade other countries to join us in sanctioning Syria if we are to have significant influence.

I offer these reservations and recommendations out of a desire to improve H.R. 1828. I recognize that peace in the Middle East depends on change in Syria. But I also believe Congress should adhere to the limitations outlined above in the imposition of unilateral sanctions. When unilateral sanctions are imposed, they should be limited in scope and limited in duration and provide significant flexibility to the Executive Branch. H.R. 1828 can be amended to incorporate these recommendations, which must be made before the legislation is sent to the President for signature.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2559) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mrs. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, many of us will spend part of the Independence Day work period at ceremonies marking the heroism of our

service men and women, and the sacrifices of their families. If we were to ask any military commander present at those ceremonies, What is the most important aspect of leadership? The answer would be: First, take care of the troops.

This bill provides an opportunity for the House to exhibit that kind of leadership, the opportunity to take care of our troops. Instead, sadly, it is another missed opportunity.

If military quality of life issues were a priority, we would not be considering a Military Construction Appropriations Bill that is \$1.5 billion below last year's funding level, but we would be passing Mr. OBEY's amendment, which would help nearly 8,000 service members and their families get the housing they deserve.

Instead, we pass resolutions that talk about supporting the military and then refuse to provide that support in the appropriations bills.

Active and retired military personnel and their families have been among the victims of the irresponsible and fiscally unsound budget and tax policies of the Republican majority. If putting the troops and their families first were a Republican priority, they would not have submitted a budget that continues the tax on disabled veterans, that cuts veterans benefits, and that impacts aid. And they would not have approved a tax cut that takes care of the children of the wealthy few while ignoring 250,000 children of active duty military personnel.

That is a regrettable message to send to the troops just days before the Fourth of July.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to oppose H.R. 1, the Republican Medicare bill.

Tonight we have an opportunity to provide seniors with a Medicare prescription medicine benefit. But the Republican Majority has thrown aside bipartisanship and crafted a bill that will confuse and short-change seniors while slowly eroding the time-honored guarantee of Medicare. I cannot vote for this seriously flawed bill.

Seniors in North Carolina's Second District, like those across the country, deserve a real Medicare prescription medicine benefit. They want a plan that is simple, comprehensive, and a part of Medicare. I have consistently voted for such a plan throughout my career in Congress.

But H.R. 1 subjects seniors to a complex plan that features fluctuating premiums, a huge gap in coverage, uncertainty about who's going to provide them with medicines, and it will end Medicare as we know it.

First, nothing in this legislation requires the drug-only insurance groups that will administer this plan to fix premiums at \$35 a month. That number is merely a suggestion. Our seniors do not want suggestions Mr. Speaker, they want certainty.

Second, the \$400 billion the Majority set aside for Medicare related spending in their Fiscal Year 2004 is woefully inadequate. This

plan will only cover a fifth of what seniors will spend over the next 10 years on prescription medicines. To fit inside their budget, the authors of this bill have developed a huge gap, or doughnut hole, that forces seniors who spend between \$2,001 and \$3,500 on medicines to pay all of their costs. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

Third, this plan relies on an untested mechanism to deliver medicines to seniors. H.R. 1 creates a drug-only insurance market that will not work, especially in rural areas. But what makes this bill worse is that it makes no effort to provide a fallback for rural seniors should private drug-only plans decide to stop offering them coverage.

Finally, in this plan we see the Republican Majority's true colors. H.R. 1 is simply a shell-game that will privatize Medicare. Under this legislation, in 2010 private plans will be allowed to compete against Medicare to cover hospital and physician benefits. As private plans seek to siphon off healthy seniors, the cost of remaining in traditional Medicare will rise and seniors will be forced to join an HMO, along with all of its restrictions, to get coverage.

When President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare into law over 38 years ago, Medicare was designed to be a guarantee that our seniors would be able to get affordable health care services regardless of their age, ability to pay, or degree of sickness. In the spirit of that landmark law, I will vote for an alternative amendment to H.R. 1 that creates a simple, comprehensive, prescription medicine plan under Medicare. This plan also includes superior rural provider provisions in comparison to those contained in H.R. 1.

Mr. Speaker, for the third Congress in a row we have another Medicare bill pending before us. And once again, the bill is a sham. It provides no guaranteed benefit, contains a huge gap in coverage, and it will privatize Medicare.

America's seniors want bipartisan cooperation in this body. They want us to come together to strengthen Medicare, not dismantle it. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1 tonight.

CENTRALIA SESQUICENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the City of Centralia, Illinois as she celebrates her sesquicentennial. Since 1853, the people of Centralia have lived and prospered and given so much to this great nation.

Centralia was founded as a result of the building of the Illinois Central Railroad, hence the name Centralia. It was also a coal-mining town almost from the first years of its existence. The town has experienced an oil boom in the mid 1900s and is home to much industry.

Over the years Centralia has produced many leaders who have been instrumental in our Nation's history. One reason is due to the quality education provided. It is also the home of the "Winningest Basketball Team in America," the Centralia Carillon, and the Centralia Balloon Fest; just to name a few.

I am proud to represent the people of the great City of Centralia and to share in this special occasion. I thank them for all they give to our country and I wish them another successful 150 years. Congratulations and "Go Orphans!"

JOHN L. GROVE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and loss of John L. Grove, whose accomplishments have made an everlasting impact to Pennsylvania and the Nation.

John Grove committed his life to the Franklin County community as a defining model for entrepreneurship and the American dream. Mr. Grove personally had a hand in the creation of numerous successful companies and contributed his expertise and advice to a whole host of other business ventures.

John Grove was noted for his brilliance and huge innovations in the world of hydraulics. He was most notably, the "father" of the hydraulic telescoping crane boom. In addition to his prowess for business and ingenuity, he was also extremely generous to his community. Today his philanthropic endeavors, including the John L. Grove College of Business at Shippensburg University and the John L. Grove Medical Center in Greencastle, stand as a reminder of his faith in those around him and his determination to provide a better life for others.

John Grove and his brother formed Grove Manufacturing Company by building farm wagons out of a two car suburban garage. But brilliance would not be constrained by just farm wagons. In just three short years, he and his brother developed and built the industry's first industrial yard crane. Quickly the wagons were superceded by the demand for the cranes and the small business in a garage became an industrial giant.

After a very successful run in this career, Mr. Grove and his brother sold the company in the 1960's and John Grove took a well-deserved vacation. But as most truly gifted people find out, the body may rest but the brain never pauses. It was in the course of his vacation travels across this great country of ours, that Mr. Grove realized the pitfalls of those who needed to work on platforms and scaffolding. To that end, he invented the self propelled work-basket vehicle and in an instant a second career was born.

In implementing his new vision, Mr. Grove and a partner bought a small factory in McConnellsburg and began with only 15 employees. Soon, JLG Industries would grow to a internationally recognized company that would employ thousands from around the community.

In 1993, Mr. Grove retired from a hugely successful career at JLG, but he continued to offer both his business experience and philanthropy to the area he so dearly loved.

Few people have had such a tremendous impact on south central Pennsylvania. With the passing of John L. Grove, Pennsylvania and America have lost one of their greatest citizens.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDEN HOUSING, INC.

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eden Housing, Inc. of Hayward, California on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary. Eden Housing, Inc. was founded in 1968 by a group of dedicated individuals who were concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Alameda County. The original board members developed Eden's first affordable development, the 150-unit Josephine Lum Lodge for seniors in Hayward, California.

Since starting its first project nearly 35 years ago, Eden Housing has created 4,200 units of affordable housing for low income families, seniors and persons with disabilities, and has become one of the most active non-profit affordable housing developers in California. As it has grown, the organization has expanded its development activities into six Northern California counties. From its small but ambitious beginning, Eden, and its two major affiliates, Eden Housing Management, Inc. and nonprofit Eden Housing Resident Services, Inc. now employ a combined professional staff of 120 employees. The organization is guided by an eleven member volunteer board of directors from a wide spectrum of professional fields.

In addition to meeting the needs for affordable shelter, Eden Housing is committed to helping its residents improve their lives through free onsite supportive services and programs provided by Eden's nonprofit affiliate, Eden Housing Resident Services, Inc. These services include children's summer and after-school programs, scholarships for deserving adults, senior health and fitness programs, onsite service coordination, and computer learning programs where children learn skills to help them succeed in school, and adults acquire skills to help them compete for better employment opportunities.

Throughout its history, Eden Housing has made it a priority to mentor and partner with smaller non-profit organizations to build their capacity while providing housing to serve special populations or geographic communities. Included in Eden's collaborations are a 100-unit senior apartment complex, developed with East Bay Issei, a coalition of Japanese American groups concerned with creating housing for their senior constituents; multiple partnerships with Community Resources for Independent Living and the Mentally Handicapped Children's Organization to create developments for persons with disabilities; and a collaboration with East Bay Habitat for Humanity to build homes in Fremont for first-time buyers.

In its thirty-fifth year, Eden Housing is celebrating the future, as well as the past. Eden Housing, Inc. is breaking ground on new developments and opening others. The organization is conducting feasibility studies for additional units and continues to search out new opportunities, all of which support Eden Housing's commitment to provide affordable housing in Northern California well into the future.

Congratulations Eden Housing, Inc. I applaud your dedication and exemplary contributions.

RECOGNITION OF SSM HEALTH CARE AND ST. MARY'S/GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize SSM Health Care for receiving the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. SSM Health Care sponsors St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Hospitals in Centralia and Mt. Vernon, both located in the 19th Congressional District of Illinois.

I am very proud of their accomplishment. SSM Health Care is the first health care organization to win the award. The award is given annually by the United States Department of Commerce and is the highest award a U.S. company can receive for management and quality achievement.

The leadership, medical staff, and all employees continually strive to meet the needs of their patients first. Their level of service is outstanding and very responsive. I thank them for their commitment to quality health care, but above all to the citizens of this great nation. Keep up the excellent work.

STEPHEN G. MCCAHAN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen G. "Mack" McCahan, Jr., an outstanding resident of Southcentral Pennsylvania who perfectly epitomizes the spirit of America. Mr. McCahan is a superb professional, an outstanding pharmacist, and a genuine expert in his field.

On August 22, 2003, Mr. McCahan will reach a true landmark, 50 years of service in the pharmacy profession. In the course of his career, Mr. McCahan has demonstrated high quality work and has exceeded all ethical standards. He has touched thousands of patients and positively impacted each community that he has served.

Mack McCahan started as a staff pharmacist in the United States Navy at Camp LeJeune, NC from 1953-1955. From there he moved to Bellfonte, PA to continue his pharmaceutical career and then to Waynesboro, PA where he worked at Minnick's Pharmacy. It was in 1963 that Mr. McCahan bought the Agnew Drug Store in Everett, PA and renamed it the Everett Pharmacy. In 1971, his brother Larry joined the business. In 1985, he further expanded his business by opening McCahan's pharmacy in Saxton, PA with his son Steve and his brother.

During his time in Everett, Mr. McCahan has become a leader in the community. His friendliness and goodwill have made him recognized by all. To that end, Mack and his wife Jean have been friends of the Shuster family for over 30 years. Having grown up with his sons, Steve and Matt, I know his goodwill personally, in fact growing up I was a member of the family.

It was only in 2001, that Mr. McCahan sold the business to his son and his brother. In that

effort, he has helped to continue the legacy of a family pharmacy, to act in the best interest of the patient, and has passed that lesson to his son.

Today, Mack McCahan still continues to work in the pharmacy, by filling in for his brother and son on their days off. In his free time, he can be found with his lovely wife.

I salute Mack McCahan and congratulate him on 50 years of tremendous success in both his career and his leadership within the community.

HONORING THE LOGAN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS TEAM AND COACH TOMMIE LINDSEY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Logan High School forensics team, and their coach Tommie Lindsey.

Recently, thirteen students from Logan High competed in the National Forensic League tournament in Atlanta, where five team members went twelve out of the thirteen rounds. One team member completed all thirteen rounds, winning the championship, and a \$6,000 scholarship. Logan is one of only five schools that received the School of Excellence Award—and the only one from California—from a field that included 1,000 schools.

Coach Tommie Lindsey's successful coaching style was the subject of a PBS Documentary last year called "Accidental Hero: Room 408." Students are back in Room 408 at Logan, where Lindsey is preparing them for the coming year in a summer-school program that includes 156 of the 240 students who make up the forensics team. Room 408 is filled with dozens of certificates of merit and stacked high to the ceiling with trophies.

Four Logan students have won national forensics championships in the past 15 years, and 20 other students have reached the semifinal round of the competition. But those aren't the statistics Lindsey is most proud of.

This year, 27 or the 28 graduating seniors on the forensic team are going to four-year colleges and the other one is going to junior college, according to Lindsey. In a school where, Lindsey said, about 40 percent of the graduates go on to college, the numbers of the forensics team speaks volumes.

Lindsey has been coaching forensics for 27 years, and at Logan since 1989. He is the director of forensics and a teacher, but to his students, he is much more. According to them, they benefit from his coaching and beyond. He advises students on how to perform, how to maintain their concentration during a performance, how to dress and how to treat competitors. He also encourages them to volunteer in the community, such as their recent work with elementary school students.

It is with pride and honor that I commend the Logan High School Forensics Team and Tommie Lindsey for their community involvement, their passion to succeed, and continued commitment to excellence.

RECOGNITION OF MT. VERNON
ELKS LODGE 819

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819. This year marks their 100th year of service to the people of Jefferson County. I am very proud of their milestone and that they are part of the 19th Congressional District, which I serve.

The Elks is a national fraternity involved in a variety of charitable work involving children and veterans. Members also uphold their long-standing tradition of patriotism and spirituality. Locally, they regularly disperse funds to help charitable causes and to provide scholarships. Several of their activities include assisting crippled children, volunteering at veteran's hospitals, organizing blood drives, providing learning opportunities for local students, and supporting the Jefferson County Sports Authority. The Mt. Vernon Elks have also been nationally recognized as the finest lodge in America.

I thank them for all the work they do and will continue to do in the future. Their commitment to their country and to their fellow citizens is very commendable. The selfless services they provide on a daily basis are an example for us all to follow. There is no question that their community, their state, and their country are better because of them. I wish the lodge the very best as they enter into their next 100 years of service.

HONORING CARL G. HARTMAN ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS THE
CLERMONT COUNTY ENGINEER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl G. Hartman who has served as Clermont County Engineer for the past 11 years and who retired on May 31, 2003. In his tenure, Carl has excelled as the Clermont County Engineer, accomplishing much for the county's roadways and infrastructure.

When Carl was elected as the County Engineer in 1992, Clermont County was one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio presenting him with a variety of challenges. Carl faced those challenges and became the "transportation engineer" of Clermont County, expanding the role of county engineer beyond just the maintenance of the bridges and roadways. He had many accomplishments. He was able to secure funding and rebuild 75 bridges throughout the county. By working with local officials, he was able to pinpoint dangerous areas of the roadways and implement safety measures to secure the safety of travelers. In addition to his duties as county engineer, in 1996 Carl took on the role of Sanitary Engineer for the Clermont County Water and Sewer Department where he was responsible for handling over \$5 million of capital improvement projects. His success is well known, and he has been honored by many of the industry's leaders for his outstanding work on the county's roadways and infrastructure.

Carl grew up in Anderson Township and graduated from Anderson High School in 1956. He continued his education at the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering. After receiving his degree, Carl worked for various engineering companies including Sun Oil Company, and in 1970 started his own engineering and surveying firm that served the Greater Cincinnati area. Starting with only two employees, Carl's successful business grew to 25 employees before he was elected the Clermont County Engineer.

His service goes beyond his elected office. Carl is an active volunteer with the local 4-H Club, and helps the local Cub Scouts earn their Engineering Achievement Awards. He is devoted to his wife, Barbara, and they have three children and six grandchildren.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area congratulate Carl on his service. We appreciate his outstanding leadership and dedication to the betterment of Clermont County, and we wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CHRISTINE
REED

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a magnificent individual and dedicated member of both her community and church, Mrs. Christine Reed, affectionately known as 'Grahams'. Born in Summit, New Jersey, Mrs. Reed has been an active member of the Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God for over 35 years.

On July 13, 2003, the members of the Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God's Usher board will proudly recognize Sister Christine Reed with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout her many years of membership, Mrs. Reed partook as a member of various choirs, the Missionary Department, Sunday School Teacher and the Usher Board. Mrs. Reed served as the President of the Usher Board for over 25 years. Also serving as the Vice President for a time, Mrs. Reed was a dedicated member, a hard and reliable worker, always willing to teach and lend a helping hand in any possible capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in saluting Mrs. Christine Reed for her many years of dedicated service to Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God.

RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND
FLOWERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mr. Raymond Flowers of Centralia, IL. Upon his death at the age of 100, Raymond held the status of oldest retired firefighter in the state of Illinois.

Towards the end of World War II, the Centralia Fire Department faced a significant shortage of firefighters. Many of Centralia's

men had enlisted in the military and were serving our country in Europe and the Pacific. To help alleviate this shortage, Raymond decided to leave his job as a truck driver and in 1944 became one of many who filled in for the firefighters who were deployed overseas. He stayed with the Fire Department for another 20 years, until his retirement in 1964.

Raymond received little formal training or instruction in firefighting. Instead, he learned on the job, fighting fires with the members of the east side fire station in Centralia.

The Centralia Fire Department and many of the citizens of Centralia honored Raymond at his funeral.

Raymond's career as a firefighter is just one example of the thousands of contributions to our nation made by members of the "Greatest Generation." It is my prayer that all Americans would learn to make the same selfless sacrifices made by those citizens.

TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR
CONGRESSIONAL HUNGER CENTER
TO AWARD BILL EMERSON
AND MICKY LELAND HUNGER
FELLOWSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2474. Mickey Leland, our former colleague once said "I cannot get used to hunger and desperate poverty in our plentiful land. There is no reason for it, there is no excuse for it, and it is time that we as a nation put an end to it." But, according to USDA statistics, there are 33 million children suffering from pangs of hunger and poverty and nearly 300 million in the world. Hunger is still rampant.

The Congressional Hunger Center founded in 1993, successfully educates leaders to fight hunger globally. It is through this entity that the Emerson-Leland Fellowships are administered, and I stand strongly in support of this legislation.

H.R. 2474 authorizes the use of funds already appropriated for the Emerson-Leland Hunger fellowships for fiscal year 2003 and 2004. However, these funds were appropriated in The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which created an independent agency in the legislative branch. The act established an endowment in the Department of Treasury and a board of trustees to supervise and direct the program that is not yet operational. This presents a barrier to the foot soldiers of compassion, who are primed and ready to fight hunger both here and abroad while fulfilling the vision of Mickey Leland and Bill Emerson.

Substantial progress has been made to feed the hungry in the United States and abroad, yet much is still needed, and I am in full support of equipping the willing in this fight with whatever means are necessary to do so. This bill allows those funds to be used by the Congressional Hunger Center for hunger fellowships.

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003**

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

We're hearing a lot about the year 1965 today. Let me remind my colleagues of some of the other things from that year. Herb Alpert and Tijuana Brass won a Grammy for 'Album of the Year' and Tom Jones earned one as 'Best New Artist'. Sonny and Cher had a hit song in 'I Got You Babe' and 'Bonanza' was the top show on television. A postage stamp cost a nickel and a gallon of regular gasoline was 31 cents. And the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached a high of 969 points.

We've come a long way since then.

Also in 1965 Medicare, which has provided health care security for millions of Americans for almost 40 years, was created. When it was launched, the program was designed to focus on a different set of needs, needs that did not include prescription drug coverage and preventive care. It was designed to fit the needs of 1965.

Well my friends this isn't the mid-sixties anymore. Just as a postage stamp is no longer a nickel, the Medicare program which doesn't provide a prescription drug benefit doesn't work in today's world.

My friends, times change.

In 2003, we must honor our commitment of health care to seniors by ensuring that seniors have access and when needed assistance to prescription drug coverage. Additionally, H.R. 1 allows for other modernizations by adding an entry physical, cholesterol screening and offers disease management.

I am pleased that this bill works to address the needs of our rural communities. Long overlooked, H.R. 1 provides a permanent fix to formulas that have discriminated against health care providers in mid-Michigan and other rural areas. This is a policy change that goes to the heart of the problem and its benefits will be multiplied for years to come.

This legislation will increase to every small urban and rural hospital, equalizing their base payment rates with that of large urban hospitals. Additionally, H.R. 1 adds a five percent bonus for primary and specialty care physicians working in areas where such care is scarce; creating a new category of hospitals that are the primary hospital in the community to receive payments covering costs plus two percent; allowing rural and small-town hospitals that provide graduate medical education to receive additional direct medical education and indirect teaching hospital funds by moving unused residency slots to these hospitals; and adding a five percent increase for all rural home health agencies for two years.

Put simply, it is past time to modernize and improve the Medicare system. H.R. 1 will be able to better serve the needs of seniors. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1.

**RECOGNITION OF EDITH JAMES
AND SARAH LOCKHART**

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Edith James and Sarah Lockhart of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Edith and Sarah recently led the Jefferson County African-American Heritage Committee's Research Committee in publishing the booklet, *We The People—Past Present and Future*, a look at local African-American history.

I thank and commend them for their tireless work in preserving and documenting history. Their work will lead to a better understanding of those who have come before us. It will also help to better educate us on one of the most divisive and shameful periods of American history: slavery and racial discrimination.

Edith and Sarah have spent much of their lives giving back to Jefferson County. I am honored to take this occasion to recognize them for their devotion and commitment to their community. We are grateful.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2004**

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2555, the FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The National Security Subcommittee, which I chair, has examined port security and found the volume of containerized cargo and the openness of our massive, complex port areas represent inviting vulnerabilities that must be secured.

Our ports are key commercial entry points, serving as the gateway for 95 percent of international cargo. Each year, nearly 10,000 vessels make 68,000 port calls and unload more than six million containers in the United States.

But, according to a GAO report published in August 2002, "Ports are inherently vulnerable to terrorist attacks because of their size, generally open accessibility by water and land, location in metropolitan areas, the amount of material being transported through ports, and the ready transportation links to many locations within our borders."

H.R. 2555 includes \$100 million for Transportation Safety Administration port security grants and \$61.7 million for the Container Security Initiative, which will help DHS protect what could be one of our Nation's most vulnerable access points—our ports. It is imperative that we adequately fund efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to scale-up port and container security.

I also support the funding in this legislation for State and local first responders. H.R. 2555 will provide \$4.4 billion for the Office of Domestic Preparedness, which includes \$1.9 billion for domestic preparedness formula grants and \$750 million for firefighter grants.

Before September 11, the firefighter grant program was funded at \$200 million, but the changes our nation has undergone since that horrific day have made clear the need for a dramatic increase in funding. This bill provides that increase.

The bottom line for me is our ports are still vulnerable and our first responders need strong financial support to protect our Nation. This bill provides significant assistance in both areas and strengthens national security.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this vital funding bill.

MR. JIM WITT

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise Jim Witt of Meridian, Idaho, for his steadfast commitment to safety. Mr. Witt is a professional truck driver who recently celebrated a remarkable career achievement: driving 1 million miles without a preventable accident. That's the equivalent of driving safely around the world 40 times.

Fatal accidents involving large trucks occur most frequently in rural areas like those throughout Idaho. On U.S. Highway 95—the major north-south route through my district—the long and tragic history of traffic fatalities is a constant reminder of the need to make highway safety foremost among our public policy considerations.

The U.S. Department of Transportation cites the danger posed by trucks on our highways as a growing concern for citizens. Professional, safety-conscious drivers like Mr. Witt provide an important public service as they navigate our corridors of commerce by helping to alleviate those concerns and setting an example for everyone who gets behind the wheel. I hope my House colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Witt and encouraging others to follow his lead in helping to make our roads safer.

**RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL
DAVID HARRIS**

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Major General David Harris, The Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. Major General Harris will be retiring from his position after more than thirty-three years of military service.

Maj. General Harris was appointed Adjutant General in 1999. During his service as leader of the Illinois National Guard, he oversaw its largest mobilization since World War II. The military operations in Iraq saw more than 2,600 soldiers and airmen mobilized or alerted

for duty. Mobilizations also took place in large numbers for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as well.

New military construction projects were also a major part of Harris' tenure. Working with the Illinois congressional delegation along with state leaders, funding was secured for new armories and for the upgrade of existing armories throughout the state.

Major General Harris began his military career in 1970. In 1971 he successfully completed Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He joined the Illinois Army National Guard in 1979 where he has held numerous positions. During the 1980's he served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives representing his home in the northwest Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights.

I want to thank Major General Harris for his many years of service to his country and state. He is a man of great ability, but more importantly a man of integrity who has devoted his life to protecting the citizens of his country and state. I wish him the best as he enters retirement. He will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALLAN R. JONES

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who devoted his life in service to our nation. Mr. Allan R. Jones passed away on May 7th, and I am certain he will be missed by all who knew him.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Mr. Jones is a decorated Korean War veteran. Due to his service with the 45th Division of the United States Army during the war, he received the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medal.

Mr. Jones was not only a veteran of the Army, but he was also a noted journalist for several newspapers. He began his career with the Daily Times News in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. While there he served as sports editor, reporter and photographer. He also worked at the Richmond Times-Dispatch as a reporter who covered Henrico and Chesterfield counties. As a reporter he covered several important stories involving state politics and school desegregation.

After working as a journalist, Mr. Jones started a new career on Capitol Hill as a researcher for the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Oceanography and Merchant Marine. After his time with the committee, he served as a legislative assistant with Senator William Spong. During his tenure with Senator Spong, Mr. Jones and a colleague earned a national award from the National Association of Independent Insurers for research they did on auto insurance in Virginia.

In 1973, he joined the American Trucking Association Legislative Affairs department. Through his efforts, he helped push legislation which created the commercial drivers' license, and helped craft the landmark Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991.

Retiring after twenty years with the ATA, Mr. Jones moved to Florida and became immediately involved with his community. He served as Vice President of the Flagella County, Flor-

ida Education Foundation, and served on the Flagella County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee.

In honor of his service to the United States during the Korean War, Mr. Jones was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on June 10". Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Allan Jones for all that he has achieved during his life, both for his country and for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S CREATIVE FESTIVAL

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Children's Creative Festival of Orange County, California and support their efforts to educate and enlighten the community.

Last month, the Children's Creative Festival wrapped up their weekend-long street painting festival, Fun with Chalk. Hundreds of artists from around the world descended on to my district to transform the streets around the Mission Viejo, California civic center into a colorful, interactive art gallery.

The art of street painting and the carnival that follows it dates back to sixteenth century Europe when villagers decorated the cobblestone paths surrounding their town square to celebrate a harvest or other important occasion. The Children's Creative Festival continues this tradition as a way to educate, entertain and inspire young people, and to foster a small town atmosphere reminiscent of old Europe.

The Children's Creative Festival uses funds raised at this annual street painting faire to help local schools with art education and other cultural activities. Last year, more than 79,000 children benefited from year round programs and classes sponsored by this all-volunteer organization.

The Children's Creative Festival was also the key sponsor of my 2003 Congressional art competition, which awarded scholarships to five young artists.

Dr. Frank Lieberman and his wife, Elaine, founded the Children's Creative Festival five years ago to inspire creativity, teach art appreciation and provide supplemental funding for quality visual and performing arts experiences for school children, thus developing creative and imaginative adults. I believe they have achieved their stated goals and wish them and their organization continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL URBAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. Michael Urban, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Michael is a junior political science major at the University of Missouri-Columbia and has

distinguished himself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Michael joined my staff for the 108th congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Michael has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During his time as an intern in my office, Michael has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Michael has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of his knowledge and skills acquired prior to his tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills he has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our nation. I would also like to commend his interviewing skills and his solo singing rendition of happy birthday for other staffers.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. Michael Urban for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF BAYAUD INDUSTRIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayaud Industries, a non-profit corporation that enables disabled individuals to contribute to their communities by providing them job training and placement.

Since 1969 Bayaud Industries has provided job training and placement to thousands of individuals with mental, emotional, and physical disabilities. Even after placement, Bayaud Industries continues its support, making sure that each of their clients has a case worker they can turn to even after they start their first job. Bayaud's mission is simple—to provide hope, opportunity, and choice by using employment as a means through which people with disabilities can participate in mainstream life.

Many working individuals find satisfaction in their jobs because they feel they have the opportunity to do something useful everyday. Groups of disabled Americans and advocates for individuals with disabilities have told me that employment can provide a sense of worth and accomplishment that many people with disabilities live without. In addition, they say that disabilities can keep people isolated from their communities, creating a sense of loneliness and dulling social skills. Employment can take individuals with disabilities off of the sidelines, provide them an opportunity to be involved in daily life, and a chance to interact with members of the community.

Unfortunately, according to the Mental Health Association the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities is approximately 75 percent, and for those with psychiatric disabilities it is at almost 80 percent. Some of these statistics can be attributed to those individuals with such severe disabilities that they are unable to work, however much of that percentage is made up of individuals with disabilities who have never had the training or help they need to find the jobs they can do.

The need for a company like Bayaud Industries is clear. Bayaud provides an invaluable link between individuals with disabilities and employment. By being that link they are changing lives on a daily basis. They make a difference every day by opening doors for members of America's disabled community that many of them never knew existed before.

CITIZENS OF LIBERIA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, tonight, while the President of the United States is visiting Senegal and other countries in Africa, I rise to address the House to express my concern for the citizens of Liberia. Liberia is an African nation that was founded in 1820 by freed Black slave men and women from the United States. The nation, considered to be the only U.S. colony in Africa, was founded with a grant of \$100,000. Its capital, Monrovia, is named after the United States fifth president, James Monroe. By 1847, thousands of freed slaves had immigrated to Liberia from the United States. They declared independence and the commonwealth of Liberia became the Republic of Liberia.

Liberia's recently-deposed president, Charles Taylor, seized power in 1997 after leading a seven year insurrection, which claimed the lives of thousands of Liberian Africans against his predecessor, Samuel Doe. Taylor, an accused embezzler and protégée of Libyan dictator, Col. Mu'ammal al-Qadhafi, spread terror throughout Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Guinea. Taylor's human rights abuses include the use of child soldiers and funding terrorist organizations with money from blood diamond mines.

On June 4, 2003, the United Nations supported an indictment of President Taylor by a Special Court in Sierra Leone, at the same time a group of West African Presidents were meeting with Taylor and others in Ghana to discuss efforts to negotiate a peace agreement.

During the negotiations, President Taylor [said he would step aside if it would bring peace to his war torn country]. On Sunday, July 6, 2003, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria announced that Taylor agreed to leave Liberia under certain conditions and with certain guarantees. President Obasanjo stated that what was happening in Liberia could happen anywhere in Africa. Liberia, he said, needed relief from dictatorship so that the entire region wouldn't be affected by the errant regime in that nation.

Mr. Speaker, thus far, there has not been a successor named to govern Liberia. The leaders from the 16 Liberian opposition political

parties in the nation, as well as leaders from religious and women's organizations, have been meeting in Ghana to draw up a peace plan and establish a transitional government expected to run the country for 18 to 24 months before new elections can be held.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Britain and France have asked the United States to lead, at least initially—a peace-keeping operation designed to separate and disarm the warring factions and establish an environment where a transitional government can take control of the country. ECOWAS has pledged 3,000 troops for an intervention force and is asking the United States to pledge 2,000 troops in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, and my colleagues support the Liberian people's struggle to return their country to sane and just rule. Liberia has been a friend and a supporter of the United States. It was an ally during the Cold War and a facilitator of covert operations against Col. Mu'ammal al-Qadhafi during the 1980s. It would be a betrayal of that long-held trust to turn our backs on the people of Liberia who have supported us in the past.

Liberia's natural resources are plentiful. The country has iron ore, rubber, timber, diamonds, gold and tin. In addition, in recent years that it has discovered sizable deposits of crude oil along its Atlantic Coast, and it continues to make strides in the agriculture sector. We need to work with the local communities and provide assistance in the areas of development, policing, healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, Liberia has the potential of re-establishing a strong democratic model of liberation and justice for the continent. We must do whatever we can to assist the Liberians—these proud people of liberty—rebuild their beautiful country.

DISEASE PREVENTION IN MEDICARE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the Record a letter I have received from seven former Secretaries of the Department of Health and Human Services and its predecessor, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The letter, sent to many Members of Congress, and especially to the leadership of both bodies, requests that during our work on Medicare modernization we not forget about the benefits of disease prevention.

The letter specifically references a report by Partnership For Prevention, "A Better Medicare for Healthier Seniors: Recommendations to Modernize Medicare's Prevention Policies," which states that Medicare should increase its emphasis on keeping seniors healthy, not just treating them when they become sick, as a roadmap for a modernizing Medicare's prevention practices.

The Partnership For Prevention (PFP) is a highly respected non-profit partnership of public and private sector organizations committed to finding solutions to health issues in a non-partisan and rigorously scientific manner. The report and other recommendations can be viewed and downloaded at the PFP Web site, <http://www.prevent.org>.

I encourage my colleagues to read the attached letter, look at the Partnership For Prevention report and consider their recommendations in our further efforts to modernize Medicare.

THE FORMER SECRETARIES OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE
JUNE 25, 2003.

Hon. JIM RAMSTAD,
*U.S. Representative, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515.*

DEAR MR. RAMSTAD, as former Secretaries of Health and Human Services (or Health, Education and Welfare), we write to encourage you to include disease prevention in discussions about Medicare modernization.

Congress created Medicare in 1965 based on the knowledge of health and medicine at that time. Thus, Medicare came into being as a national insurance system to cover hospitalization and visits to clinicians' offices for diagnoses and treatment.

In the nearly four decades since Medicare's creation, considerable research and practice have yielded proven ways to not just diagnose and treat disease, but to prevent it and promote longer, healthier life. Today we know that postponing disability, maintaining social function, and sustaining independence are achievable for seniors through evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention services. It is nearly always preferable, both for the individual and for society, to prevent disease instead of waiting to treat it.

Congress has added selected preventive services to Medicare but has not included other services that are proven effective, nor has it encouraged Medicare to take a comprehensive approach to disease prevention and health promotion for America's seniors.

A recent Harris Poll found that nine in ten American adults want Medicare to be modernized and to put as much emphasis on disease prevention as it does on disease treatment.

The roadmap for this Medicare modernization is laid out in a new Partnership for Prevention (Partnership) report, A Better Medicare for Healthier Seniors: Recommendations to Modernize Medicare's Prevention Policies, which you already have received. These recommendations would move the U.S. toward realization of our nation's two overarching national health goals: Increasing life expectancy and improving quality of life, and reducing disparities in health among different segments of the population.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH A. CALAFANO, JR.
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER.
MARGARET M. HECKLER.
DAVID MATHEWS, MD.
LOUIS W. SULLIVAN, MD.
DONNA E. SHALALA, PhD.
OTIS R. BOWEN, MD.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY C. LESTER, PhD, CNRA

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to an outstanding representative from the State of Texas, Rodney C. Lester, PhD, CRNA. Dr. Lester will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that one of Texas's own was tapped as the 2002–2003 president of this prestigious national organization.

Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 30,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in two-thirds of all rural hospitals, providing these medical facilities with obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

Dr. Lester received his PhD in health education from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas; his master's of science in nursing from the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee; and his master's in business administration from Drury College Breech School of Business, Springfield, Missouri. He is currently the Nurse Anesthesia Division director and associate professor of clinical nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, School of Nursing. He also serves as a member on the Admissions, Progression and Graduation Committee at the school. Previously, he was the director for the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Lester has served terms as president and vice president for the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Adding to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Lester has become nationally recognized in both publishing and speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years.

In addition to his service to the AANA, Dr. Lester served his country in the United States Army as an officer and certified registered nurse anesthetist. He recently retired from the Army after 5 years active duty and 24 years as a reservist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Rodney Lester, PhD, CRNA, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

H. CON. RES. 210 HONORING SPECIALIST SHOSHANA JOHNSON FORMER IRAQI POW

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am announcing the introduction of H. Con. Res. 210 honoring Army Spc. Shoshana Nyree Johnson, former POW in Iraq, and the first African-American woman POW.

Specialist Johnson was deployed to the Persian Gulf region as a member of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company. On March 23, 2003, Iraqi Troops ambushed her unit in Nsiriyah, Iraq, and Specialist Johnson and five other members of her unit were captured and held as prisoners of war. Specialist Johnson, four other members of her unit, and two helicopter pilots were rescued by United States Marines on April 13, 2003.

Specialist Johnson, who suffered gunshot wounds in both ankles, displayed extraor-

dinary courage and valor during her 21-day ordeal, and outstanding dignity since her release.

She was honored on Capitol Hill on June 12, 2003, at an event hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus. Specialist Johnson described her experience as "just doing her job," and asked for prayers for those still fighting in Iraq. She also remembered fellow POW Private First Class Jessica Lynch, a member of her unit who was also captured and released. The humility of her remarks reflected the hero that she is.

H. Con. Res. 210 honors Specialist Shoshana Johnson for her sacrifice and for representing the highest ideals of service in the United States Armed Forces. To cosponsor this Resolution, please call Jean Mathis of my staff on extension 54365.

NORTON FILES BILL TO AUTHORIZE ANNUAL FUNDING FOR TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) today introduced the Model Alternative Publicly Accountable Schools Act of 2003 to allow the District to use its unique experience in establishing an unusual number and variety of successful publicly accountable alternatives to its traditional public schools in an effort to encourage other school districts to do the same and to provide additional funding to allow the city to continue these efforts, which are now threatened by cuts and a shortage of funds. Norton said that nationally, the Congress has been unwilling to fund private school vouchers and has had very limited success in getting school districts to establish public alternatives such as charter schools. (For example, Virginia has eight charters and Maryland has one, while the District has 42). Locally, she said that H.R. 2556—the D.C. Parental Choice Incentive Act of 2003—would authorize private school vouchers but without her bill there would be no bill authorizing funds for the city's transformation and charter schools that would treat these parents and children equally, as even voucher advocates say is necessary. In addition, Norton said, in a year when both D.C. and the federal government have cut school funding, her bill providing funds for publicly accountable schools would free up scarce D.C. funds for use in traditional public schools. The D.C. Public Schools last week cut 422 positions to help meet a \$40.4 million shortfall, including \$6.5 million in funds for textbooks. However, the voucher bill will result in a minimum loss of \$25,114,000 if 2,000 students exit the public schools altogether next year because D.C. and federal law require that schools be funded on a per pupil basis.

The Norton bill would authorize a total of \$15 million for the first of five years of funding. In the FY 04 budget, \$12 million would fund and expand transformation schools based on a congressional finding that the District has significantly improved the performance of its poorest and lowest performing children in transformation schools. She said that the improvements in test scores and parental involvement were directly related to extra services provided only

to transformation school children and parents. These improvements for they city's low-income children cannot be expected to continue if these services are withdrawn, as cuts now are forcing, she said.

A total of \$3 million in FY '04 would fund public charter schools in recognition of heightened demand, long waiting lists, and unavailability of funds for facilities to meet a demand the city has shown it cannot meet. Norton said that a particularly large number of schools had applied for charter school status for the coming school year and that the \$3 million was important to expand the direct loan fund to assure that start-up charter schools would have the necessary head start to lease facilities in D.C.'s costly rental market. In the remaining four years of the Norton bill, allocation of funds between charter and transformation schools would be done by the City Council after hearings based on the demonstrated needs and gaps in both.

The Congresswoman said that sporadic and ad hoc funding for charter schools from Congress demonstrate the necessity for a specific authorization. Last year, the House did not fund charter schools at all, but working with the Senate, Norton got \$17 million for charters to help ease facilities pressures. "This was done without slogans about funding multiple sectors," she said, "and funds may come on an episodic basis again. However, no one should mistake any funds we may get without an authorization this year or in the future, for the authorized amount for vouchers that is designed to guarantee an annual appropriation. Only a comparable authorization can do for charter schools and transformation schools what H.R. 2556 does in authorizing a specific amount for private school vouchers."

Norton said that the voucher intervention by federal authorities "has been a distraction from the expressed desires and needs of the majority of the city's parents and children and has done a disservice to the District's leadership role in carrying out two congressional statutes"—the charter school provision of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which Funded charter schools nationally, and Section 1115 of the No Child Left Behind Act, which encourages schools such as D.C.'s transformation schools. Norton is also one of the authors of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, written on a home rule basis with D.C. officials and residents.

Norton said that her bill is also necessary because the President's visit last week shows that his administration intends no extra funds for charter schools, because he spoke only of funds that are available to all charter schools nationally, despite demand here that far outstrips the available funds and despite D.C.'s record of establishing charter schools in particularly significant numbers, as Congress intended. She said without explicit authorization, charter and transformation schools would be left to the mercy of appropriation committees, which are free to fund whatever programs they desire while vouchers would be authorized for finds on an annual basis.

AFRICA

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank ELIJAH CUMMINGS, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for once again holding this very timely and important discussion on Africa.

For the next week Africa will be page one news due to the President's trip to the continent. Then, once again, news on Africa will most likely recede to the back pages of our major newspapers and disappear. However, what many Americans don't realize is the increasing importance of Africa to the world and the United States.

Americans now import more than one quarter of their oil from the African continent. In the coming years, due to new major oil discoveries in the Gulf of Guinea off the west coast of Africa the percentage of African oil Americans consume will most likely rise. It will rise because there are quantities of untapped oil reserves on the continent, and it will rise because the U.S. realizes that oil from the Middle East can easily fall prey to the vagaries of war and politics.

Africa is so important to us, in part, because it is a continent rich in natural resources. Copper, diamonds, gold, and wood are all in abundance throughout the continent. The Congo River itself has enough potential hydroelectric power to supply the electrical needs of the whole continent. And the continent still has abundant rain forests, which have been described as the lungs of the world.

We as legislators can no longer afford to ignore Africa or view it solely through the lens of disaster and peril. Yes, we cannot deny that there are serious health problems in Africa with HIV/AIDS and malaria leading the list. There is crushing poverty throughout the continent. Africans living on less than a dollar a day now number over 315 million, according to a recent World Bank survey. Serious conflicts in the Congo—where not thousands but millions have perished—and West Africa still plague the continent and put a serious drag on the development of human resources and capital.

We cannot afford to ignore Africa because people are beginning to realize that failed states and crushing poverty are fertile breeding grounds for terrorist and criminal groups. We cannot afford to ignore Africa because the world is smaller and more interconnected. From the war on terrorism to the supply of crucial resources, from the campaign against threatening diseases to the opportunities for economic trade and investment, Africa is a key global player. We cannot afford to ignore Africa because we now ignore it at our own peril.

Africa matters in many ways. Not all the news coming out of Africa is gloomy. Trade and investments with Africa are growing. U.S. exports totaled over \$5.8 billion last year, while U.S. imports were \$18 billion. Nigeria

alone is the fifth largest supplier of oil to the U.S. Despite appearances, Africa is more peaceful today than in the 1980s and 1990s. Democracy is also taking root in many parts of Africa.

But Africa needs increased resources to deal with the multitude of problems. U.S. assistance to Africa has been stagnant for many years, and real development assistance to the continent is less than \$500 million. Although total U.S. assistance to Africa may total about \$2 billion, a large chunk of this is for humanitarian and health related programs. Many programs—including in the areas of agriculture, democracy, conflict resolution, trade and investment—have suffered from significant cutbacks. In short, Africa needs increased assistance if it is truly to be brought into the mainstream world economy.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been a staunch advocate and played a pivotal role in strengthening the cultural, political and economic ties between Africa and the United States. I am therefore concerned, but not surprised, that President Bush did not seek out the guidance and assistance of the CBC before making his sojourn to Africa. This is not surprising because, as our chairman recently noted, "The President has declined all of our offers to meet with him since our last discussion of January 31, 2001."

In closing, I want to make a few remarks on the President's proposal to send in U.S. peacekeepers to Liberia. First, I recognize the longstanding historical ties between the U.S. and Liberia. I don't believe it will be as difficult to win the hearts and minds of Liberians who are predisposed to look upon the U.S. with favor. I generally support the concept of a peacekeeping mission to Liberia. However, I believe that a U.S.—led peacekeeping mission should be placed under the auspices of the United Nations. The United States by itself cannot be the policeman of the world, and our forces are already spread thin by our other significant commitments around the world. Any U.S. actions in Liberia will have greater credibility if they have the seal of approval of an international body.

We must also think through very carefully our commitment to place U.S. forces in Liberia. We must have a mission that is clearly defined, and we must have an exit plan that is articulated and understood by the American public. I also believe that any plan to introduce U.S. forces in Liberia should be subjected to serious congressional oversight and approval.

The Devil is in the details. The administration must first clearly articulate its methods

and goals before any U.S. troops are put on the ground.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES REESE,
DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT
5670 OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Kansan devoted to his community and to the State of Kansas. Mr. Charles Reese, a Rotarian since 1975, will be installed as the District Governor of District 5670 of Rotary International on Friday, July 11.

I am personally proud of Mr. Reese, who resides in my hometown of Hays, Kansas. District 5670 encompasses Hays and all of northwest Kansas. As District Governor, Mr. Reese will lead 31 Rotary clubs with 1200 members in a 38-county region.

Reese's dedication to his community is well known. Mr. Reese served the Hays community as a board member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry and as chairman of the board of the Kansas PRIDE program. Last year, Charles retired as Vice President of Corporate Relations for Midwest Energy, an electric and natural gas utility based in Hays.

Mr. Reese's commitment to community service is an example of tremendous leadership. He served as President of the Heartland of Development Corporation and is currently serving as interim director of the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development. Mr. Reese and his wife, Louise, have also traveled to Panama with the Rotary District HungerPlus service teams. For his volunteer work in economic development, Charles received the 2002 Volunteer of the Year award from the Kansas Economic Development Association.

Not least of all, Charles and Louise are the proud parents of three grown daughters and grandparents of three grandsons. The family will celebrate Charles' formal installation as District Governor at a banquet Friday evening, July 11, in Hays.

Charles Reese is a role model for service to others. His devotion to his community, and to Rotary International, reflects his strong character and sense of duty to community, state, and nation.